

RG104 Entry 216

Volume 5 (no index)

January 1, 1840 – December 18, 1841

Letters sent and received by the Secretary of the Treasury relating to Branch Mints.

Documents are in rough chronological order but are not separated by Branch Mint facility or subject.

Blank sheets and routine endorsements have been omitted. Annotations and addenda sheets have been digitized as they appear in the originals.

Some documents might duplicate those in RG104 Entry 1 but no specific identification has been attempted.

RG 104 RECORDS OF THE BUREAU OF
THE MINT

Records of the Office of the
Secretary of the Treasury

LETTERS RECEIVED FROM BRANCH
MINTS ("V" SERIES), 1834-1873

Vol. 05 of 20

NC-152, Entry 216

M.

(1)

Mint of the United States.
Jan. 1st, 1841.

Sir,

Letters from U. S. Mint & Branches
for 1840 & 1841. Marked & num-
bered. M. 1 up to 170 - for 1840 &
M. 1 - - - 108 - 1841 -
to be bound in the same order
in one volume & like the letter

Director.

To
Hon. Levi Woodbury
Secretary of the Treasury.

M. (1) 1
Mint of the United States.
Jan. 1st, 1849.

Sir,

I have the honor to acknowledge
the receipt of your letter of the 30th
ult., with the accompanying pack-
age of coins from the Dahlmeyer
Mint.

Very respectfully,
Your faithful servant,
P. M. Patterson,
Director.

77
To
Hon. Levi Woodbury
Secretary of the Treasury.

M. 2

2

Mint of the United States,
Jan. 2, 1840.

Sir,

I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your communication of the 31st ult., and also of the package of coins referred to, - this being the third transmission from the Branch Mint at Dahlonega.

Very respectfully,

your faithful servant,

P. M. Patterson,
(Director)

To Hon. Levi Woodbury,
Secretary of Treasury. }

Jan
Kau

M. (3)
 Mint of the United States,
 Jan. 7th, 1840.

Sir,

In a letter from Joseph M. Kennedy, Esq., Superintendent of the New Orleans Mint, dated the 17th ult., he asks me "to obtain for him, from the proper Department, a Statement of the different remittances made to the New Orleans Mint, since it first went into operation, with the amounts appropriated to each particular branch."

Although Mr. Kennedy should have made this application to the Department directly, I must now take the liberty of making it for him, to prevent delay, as it may be necessary for the Statement of his Annual Accounts.

Very respectfully,

Your faithful servant,

R. M. Patterson,
 (Director.)

To

Hon. Levi Woodbury,
 Secretary of Treasury. }

of this
 atty h

M (4)

4

Mint of the United States.
Jan. 7th, 1848.

Sir,
I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 2^d inst., enclosing a copy of a resolution adopted by the Senate, requiring certain information respecting the coinage at the Mint and its Branches, and also respecting the annual product of the gold mines of the United States. As to ^{the} first object of inquiry, there will be no difficulty in giving you full information, as soon as my reports from the Branches, for the last year, are received. But I cannot promise you any satisfactory information as to the second inquiry. In 1835 and 1836, I used every exertion to get a plausible estimate of the production of our American gold mines, but my attempts were

in vain. The reports made to me
were so inconsistent with one another,
and with probability, that I could
not consider them worthy of any
reliance. There is now, however, a
source of information which was not
then open to me, and to which I
shall apply;— I refer to the officers
of the Branch Mints at Charlotte
and Dahlburga, who live in the
midst of the principal gold regions,
and whose official duties must give
them an acquaintance with the subject
of our inquiries.

Very respectfully,

Your faithful servant,

P. W. Patterson,

(Director.)

J. H. Levi Woodbury
Secretary of the Treasury.

M (5)

5

Mint of the United States.

Jan. 11th, 1840.

Sir, I have the honor to acknowledge
the receipt, this morning, of a pack-
age, forwarded by you, containing
gold coins, sent from the Dahlme-
ga Mint, for the Annual Assay.

Very respectfully,

Your faithful servant,

R. M. Patterson,

(Director.)

To
Hon. Levi Woodbury,
Secretary of the Treasury.

For this night
W (6)
 Mint of the United States,
 Jan. 13. 1840.

Sir,

I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt, this morning, of yours of the 9th inst., advising me that you had sent, by the same mail, a package of coins, received from Dahomego. This I suppose to be the package received and acknowledged by me on the 11th inst.

I have also received, under your frank, a package containing coins & communications from the U. S. Consul at Frankfort, - together with the communication from the Fifth Auditor's office, relative to the claim of the U. S. Consul at Copenhagen.

I have to acknowledge also the favor which you have done me in sending a copy of your report to Congress.

Very respectfully,
 your faithful servant,

To,
 Mr. Levi Woodbury,
 Sec. of Treasury.

R. W. Patterson,
 Director

M 7

7

Mint of the United States,
Jan. 15. 1840.

Sir,

I have the honor to send, by this mail, to your address, a box containing dies for the Branch Mint at New Orleans, - and to request that you will forward it, under your frank, as directed upon the inner envelope.

Very respectfully,

your faithful servant,

P. M. Tattersall,
(Director.)

To }
Mr. Levi Woodbury,
Secretary of Treasury. }

~~R. H.~~

P.S. - My annual report is delayed in consequence of my not having yet received the last reports for 1839 from Charlotte, and New Orleans.

M (8)

8

Mint of the United States,
Jan. 17, 1840.

Sir,

I have the honor to acknowledge
the receipt of your letter of the 14th inst., and
of the coins referred to as received from the Su-
perintendent of Dahlonega Branch Mint, -
this being the fifth and last remittance of
coins for the annual assay from that mint.

Very respectfully,

Your faithful servant,

R. M. Patterson,
Director.

To/

Hon. Levi Woodbury,
Secretary of Treasury. }

M (9)

check

Mint of the United States,
Jan. 18. 1840.

Sir,

I have the honor to send, by the
present mail, to your address, a second box
of dies, directed to the Superintendent of
New Orleans Branch Mint, - and to request
that it may be forwarded under your frank.
Very respectfully,

attest
h

your faithful servant,
R. M. Patterson,
(Director.)

To/

Mr. Levi Woodbury, }
Sec. of Treasury.

P.S. - My annual report is still
kept back for the want of the final state-
ments, for the year, from New Orleans. They
could hardly have been expected ^{much} before this
time, but I now look for them daily.
R. M. P.

(10)

Mint of the United States,
Jan. 21. 1840.

Sir,

I have the honor to send, herewith, a third box of dies for New Orleans Branch Mint, which I beg you will forward, as before, under your frank.

Very respectfully,
Your faithful servant,
R. M. Patterson,
(Director.)

To,

Hon. Levi Woodbury,
Secretary of Treasury. }

M 11

11

Mint of the United States,
Jan. 22. 1840.

Sir,

I have the honor to request that
you will forward to New Orleans, under your
pack, the accompanying box of dies, for
the Branch Mint at that place.

Very respectfully,

Your faithful servant,

R. M. Patterson

Director.

To

Mr. Levi Woodbury,

Secretary of Treasury.

P.S. — I am sorry to say that I have
not yet received the information from
New Orleans necessary to complete my
annual report. I will wait still a
few days, if necessary, — as the law
gives ^{me} the whole month of January.

M (12)

12

Mint of the United States.
Jan. 23d, 1839.

Sir,

As the Annual Assay is to be held at the Mint on the 11th of next month, I have the honor respectfully to request that you will ask the attention of the President to the appointment of the Additional Commissioners provided for in the 32d Section of the Act of Jan. 18th, 1837.

Very respectfully,
Your faithful Servant,
R. M. Patterson,
Director.

To the Hon. Levi Woodbury,
Secretary of the Treasury.

M

(13)

13

Mint of the United States,
Jan. 24. 1840.

Sir,

Herewith, I have the honor to send,
to your address, two boxes of dies, - one
for the Branch Mint at Charlotte, and
the other for the Branch at Dahlonega
which I beg you to forward ^{on the next available} as directed,
under your frank.

Very respectfully,

Your faithful Servant,

R. M. Patterson
(Director)

To/
Hon. Levi Woodbury,
Secretary of Treasury. }

M. 14

14

Min't of the United States,
Jan. 24. 1840.

Sir,

I have the honor to acknowledge
the receipt of yours of the 22'd inst., with a
letter and package of coins from the U. S.
Consul at Hamburg.

Very respectfully,

Your faithful servant,

R. M. Patterson
(Director.)

To/

Hon. Levi Woodbury,
Sec. of Treasury }
}

Mint of the United States.
Jan. 30th, 1840.

Sir, I have waited until the end of the month, in the hope of being able to receive, from St. Louis, the information necessary to enable me to make my annual report of the operations of the Society and its Branches complete. I am disappointed, although my applications for this statement was made in good time, and has been duly acknowledged. I have been forced, therefore, to send to the President a report somewhat imperfect. I enclose a copy of it to you, but without the accompanying tables, as these will, of course, be placed in your hands by the President.

Very respectfully,
Your faithful Servant,
P. M. Patterson.

To Your Loveliest Son,
Secy. of the Treasury.

Director

M (16)

16

Minist of the United States.
Feb. 3d, 1849.

Sir, I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your communication of the 30th ult., with the enclosed letters naming, under the President's instructions, the additional Commissioners for the annual assay. — C. C. Biddle and Dr. Bachu accept their appointments. The letter to Mr. Sugham has been forwarded to Harrisburg, where he is at present.

I have also to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 31st ult., and of the coins for the annual assay sent there with from the New Orleans Mint.

I have received, this morning, from the Treasurer of that Mint, a letter of the 21st of January, but I am still without the information for which my annual report was so long delayed. —
I am from the endorsements of the packages

of assay-pieces sent, it would seem
that the coinage, since the resumption
of work at that Mint, has been

In quarter eagles - -	\$ 23,490.
In half dollars - -	8,000
In dimes - -	1,000
Total.	<u>\$ 32,490</u>

I am more curious, however, to learn the
amount of their deposits.

Very respectfully,
Your faithful servant,
P. M. Patterson,
(Director.)

To
Hon. Levi Woodbury,
Secretary of the Treasury.

Ms (17)

18

Unit of the United States.
Feb. 5th, 1840.

Sir,

I take the liberty of sending, by
the present mail, to be forwarded un-
der your frank, a box containing a
pair of quarter-eagle dies, for the
Superintendent of the Branch Mint at
Charlotte, to whom it is addressed
on the inner envelope.

Very respectfully,
Your faithful servant,
P. M. Patterson,
(Director.)

To

Hon. Levi Woodbury,
Secretary of the Treasury.

M 18

18

Mint of the United States.
Feb. 6th, 1849.

Sir,

I have this day transmitted to the President a supplementary report containing the complete statement of the operations of the New Orleans Mint for the past year, of which I send you a copy enclosed.

Very respectfully,

Your faithful servant,

D. M. Patterson,
(Director.)

To /
Hon. Levi Woodbury,
Secretary of the Treasury.

Make out two Memos
from the above to be
sent to the President
transmitting
this additional statement
to the President
But W

7 Feb 7
Kear

M (19)

19

Mint of the United States,
Feb. 6. 1840.

Sir,

I take the liberty of sending,
by the present mail, to be forwarded under
your frank, a box containing dies for the
Superintendent of the Branch Mint at San
Luis, to whom it is addressed on the
inner envelope.

Very respectfully,

Your faithful servant,

A. M. Tattersall,
(Director.)

To,

Hon. Levi Woodbury, }
Sec. of Treasury.

Attest
A. M. Tattersall

M (20)

20

MCK
Mint of the United States
Feb. 11, 1840.

Sir,

I have the honor to send you herewith a copy of the minutes of the proceedings of the Commissioners for the annual assay held yesterday. You will see that the trial proved the standards and weights to be all within the legal limits, and they were approved accordingly. They were indeed all perfectly satisfactory, except the quality of the gold coins from the New Orleans mint which was on the very verge of the legal limit, — being $1\frac{1}{2}$ thousandths above standard, while the limit is two thousandths. I will call the attention of the New Orleans assayer, Dr. West, to this circumstance.

Very respectfully,

Your faithful servant,

R. W. Patterson,
(Director)

Feb 11
Recd

Mr. Levi Woodbury,
Sec. of Treasury.

M (21)

At a meeting of the Commissioners appointed under the thirty-second section of the act entitled "an act supplementary to an act entitled an act establishing a Mint and regulating the coins of the United States", passed the 18th January, 1837, held at the Mint of the United States, on Monday the 10th day of February, 1840, for the purpose of making the Annual trial of the pieces of the gold and silver coins received at the Mint at Philadelphia and its branches,
present:-

Hon. Joseph Hopkinson, Judge of the district court, of the United States, for the eastern district of Pennsylvania.

George Wolf, Collector of the port of Philadelphia.

John M. Read, Attorney of the United States, for the eastern district of Pennsylvania.

Hon. Samuel D. Ingham,	} Commissioners designated by the President.
Col. Clement C. Biddle,	
Dr. Franklin Bache,	

Also present: -

The Director,

The Minter & Refiner,

The Treasurer

The Assayer,

The Chief Coiner,

& The Engraver.

The Commissioners proceeded to examine and count the pieces of gold coins and pieces of silver coins heretofore indiscriminately taken by the Treasurer, in the presence of the Assayer, and deposited and kept under the joint care of the Treasurer and Assayer, agreeably to the provisions of the 27th Section of the said Act, and by them presented for trial. Also the parcels of coins from the Branch Mints, transmitted under seal to the Director of the Mint at Philadelphia, agreeably to the provisions of the 4th Section of "An Act to establish branches of the Mint of the United States", and by him presented for trial; said coins being of the following descriptions, viz:

Gold pieces from the Mints of Charlotte, North-Carolina, and of Dahlonega, Georgia, and gold and silver pieces from the Mint at New Orleans, Louisiana.

The number of pieces was compared - those from the Mint at Philadelphia, with the entries in a book kept for that purpose: those from the Branch Mints, with the endorsements upon the parcels; and were found, in every case, to correspond.

The Commissioners then, with the assent of the

Officers of the Mint, directed that each parcel of coins should be weighed, - when it was found that the gold pieces from the Mint of Philadelphia, exceeded in weight the Standard declared by law - one part in five thousand, eight hundred and forty-eight: the silver pieces from the same Mint exceeded the Standard declared by law one part in three thousand, four hundred and sixty-one: the gold pieces from the Branch Mint at Charlotte exceeded the Standard by one part in two thousand, five hundred & fifteen: those from the Branch Mint at Dahlonega exceeded the Standard by one part in five thousand, six hundred & forty-three: those from the Branch Mint at New Orleans agreed precisely in weight with the Standard; and the silver pieces from the same Mint were inferior in weight to the Standard by one part in six thousand, five hundred.

The Commissioners then with the Assent of the officers of the Mint directed that the pieces of gold & silver coins as aforesaid should be assayed; and the same being done, it was found that the gold pieces, from the Mint of Philadelphia, were inferior in fineness to the legal Standard one part in ~~four~~ thousand; and the silver pieces, from the same Mint, were superior in fineness to the legal Standard one part in two thousand, five hundred: - that the gold pieces, from the Branch Mint at Charlotte, were inferior in fineness to the legal Standard one part in two thousand; that the gold pieces, from

the Branch Mint of Dahlonega, were superior in fineness to the legal standard one part in two thousand: that the gold pieces, from the Branch Mint of New Orleans, were one part and seven eighths in one thousand superior in fineness to the standard; and that the silver pieces from the same mint were superior in fineness to the legal standard one part in one thousand, two hundred and fifty.

The Commissioners therefore approve the gold coins issued at the Mint of Philadelphia and the Branches at Charlotte, Dahlonega, and New Orleans, - and the silver coins issued at the Mint of Philadelphia, and the Branch of New Orleans, from the first day of January, 1839, to the 31st day of December, 1839, both inclusive.

And the Commissioners having also examined the standard weights ordinarily employed in the transactions of the Mint at Philadelphia and their accuracy being tested in their presence they were found to be regulated according to the standard established by law.

(Signed) Jos. Hopkinson.
Gen. Wolf.
John M. Read.
S. D. Ingham.
Clement C. Biddle.
Franklin Bache.
R. M. Patterson,
Director.

M 22

Mint of the United States,
Feb. 14. 1840.

Sir,

Herewith, I have the honor to send you my quarterly report, - being a statement of the operations of the Branch Mints, during the fourth quarter of 1839. Like my annual report, it has been delayed for want of information from New Orleans.

Very respectfully,

Your faithful servant,

R. M. Patterson,
(Director.)

To
Hon. Levi Woodbury, }
Sec. of Treasury.

M (23)

23

Mint of the United States
Feb. 17th, 1840.

Sir,

Being pleased with the half dollars which we are now striking at the Mint, and which I think very creditable specimens of ordinary coinage, I send ten of them to you by the present mail. Your most convenient way of paying for them will probably be by enclosing to me a half-eagle.

Very respectfully

Your faithful servant,

P. M. Patterson

To
Hon. Levi Woodbury,
Secretary of the Treasury.

Adge 2/10/9

March 3

Sent a check
on Bk of Am.

for 100
Dollars which will

M (24)

24

Min't of the United States,
Feb. 19, 1840.

Sir,

I have to acknowledge the receipt, on the 17th inst., of a package containing coins and communications from the U. S. Consul at Tripoli, - forwarded under your frank.

Very respectfully,
Your faithful servant,
O. M. Patterson,
(Director.)

To }
Hon. Levi Woodbury,
Secretary of Treasury.

Th, 25

25

Mint of the United States,
Feb. 20. 1840.

Sir,

I take the liberty of sending,
herewith, a package containing instructions
and forms for the Superintendent of the
Pr. Mint at New Orleans, to whom it is ad-
dressed, - to be forwarded under your frank.

Very respectfully,

Your faithful servant,

R. M. Patterson,
(Director.)

To/

Hon. Levi Woodbury, }
Secretary of Treasury.

M (26)

Philadelphia, Feb. 21, 1840.

Dear Sir,

I have to acknowledge the receipt of your ~~favorite~~ letters of the 18th and 19th inst., the latter enclosing a check on the Bank of America for five dollars, in payment for two half dollars of the emission of the present year, which I had sent to you.

By the same mail there also came a letter from you directed to me, but which I found, on opening it, to be intended for Mrs. Pickens of Portsmouth, N. H., to which address it was immediately forwarded.

Very respectfully
and faithfully yours,

N. M. Patterson.

Return thanks for the book
N

To
H. L. Wadbury.

Mint of the United States,
Feb. 24. 1840.

Sir,

I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 21st inst., in which you state that some dissatisfaction has been expressed at the small amount of coinage at the Branch Mint at New Orleans, since the newly appointed officers entered upon their duties, and ask whether, in my opinion, this complaint has a reasonable foundation.

In reply, I have to mention, first, that the Coiner, Mr. Tyler, entered upon his Office on the 17th of November, and immediately gave his attention to the selection of workmen, and the repairs and arrangement of the machinery of his department, but could not lawfully commence coining until the Melter & Refiner, Dr. Riddell, should enter upon the discharge of his duties. Now, in consequence of the absence of this gentleman, on a botanical and geological tour in the wilds of Texas, he did not even hear of his appointment until the beginning of December, and did not give his official bonds until the 9th of that month. Under these circumstances, the coinage, up to the end of the year,

of 75,396 pieces of coin, amounting to \$33,490,
ought not, I think, to give rise to any dissatis-
faction.

I am not informed of the amount of Coin-
age at New Orleans since the commencement
of the year, but my last letters from that
Mint are written in a tone of confidence, and give
me the assurance, on which I count much
for the success of the establishment, that
"Harmony and good feeling prevail among the
officers".

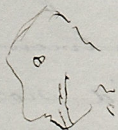
Very respectfully,

Your faithful servant,

P. M. Patterson,
Director.

(L)

Am. Levi Woodbury,
Secretary of Treasury. }



M 28
Mint of the United States,
March 5, 1840.

Sir,

In replying to your letter of the 29th ult., I find that I neglected to answer a question which you ask as to my opinion of the expediency of requiring weekly reports of coinage from the Branch Mints. I now take the liberty of stating that, in my judgment, such a course would be both useless and inexpedient. So frequent an arrangement of accounts, by deliveries from Officer to Officer, is not consistent with an economical, ^{and} even safe management of the affairs of a Mint. In fact, it is not probable that, at the Gold Mints, there is more than one delivery from the Coiner to the Treasurer in a month or perhaps even more than one or two parcels of coinage. After the deposits are melted and assayed, they have, frequently, to be melted down with a large excess of Silver, to be granulated, the silver all dissolved out by nitric acid, the separated gold remelted and assayed, the proper portion of alloy added, ingots to be cast and assayed, these ingots to be rolled and drawn into strips, with frequent annealings and picklings, the planchets cut out, each planchet

weighed separately and adjusted, by filing, to the true weight, then milled, then pickled, and at last, after all these operations, they are ready to be coined. It is manifest, therefore, that it may be very inconvenient and ill-judged, and often impossible, to have a weekly coinage, and that a weekly report of coinage would not exhibit a fair view of the operations of the Mints. Under these circumstances, I cannot recommend that the reports from the Branch Mints should be more frequent than monthly, as at present required.

Very respectfully,

Your faithful servant,

P. M. Patterson,
Director.

To/

Hon. Levi Woodbury,
Secretary of Treasury. }

Adj. off.

I would thank you
to send me the monthly reports
of the coinage at Philadelphia
Branches sent a receipt - or The 20

M. (29)

29

Minst of the United States,
March 6, 1840.

Sir,

I have to acknowledge the receipt, this morning, of yours of the 4th inst., with two packages under your frank, - being Coins & communications from the U.S. Consul at Leipzig.

Very respectfully,

Your faithful servant,
R. M. Patterson,
(Director.)

To,

Hon. Levi Woodbury, }
Secretary of Treasury.

M, (30)

30

Mint of the United States,
March 17, 1840.

Sir,

I take the liberty of sending ^{to you} by
the present mail, a box of dies directed on
the inner envelope to the Superintendent of
the Branch Mint at New Orleans, - to be for-
warded under your frank.

Very respectfully,

your faithful servant,

R. M. Patterson,
(Director.)

To/

Hon. Levi Woodbury,
Secretary of Treasury.

M (31)

Mint of the United States,
March 18, 1840.

Sir,

I take the liberty of sending to you,
by the present mail, a second box of dies, di-
rected on the inner envelope to the Superintendent
of New Orleans Branch Mint, to be
forwarded, as heretofore, under your frank.
A third box will be sent by to-morrow's mail.

Very respectfully,

Your faithful servant,

R. W. Patterson,
(Director.)

To/

Hon. Levi Woodbury, }
Secretary of Treasury. }

M. (32)

32

Mint of the United States,
March 21. 1840.

Sir,

I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 19th, on the subject of the dies for the New Orleans Mint. I beg to state that the first dies for 1840 were sent to that Mint in January, and received there in that month, and that it has been a custom, from the origin of the Mint, to use the dies of the preceding year, until the new ones are prepared. There is, however, no difficulty in sending on the supply in time to prevent this necessity, and I will have it attended to in future.

Very respectfully,

Your faithful servant,

R. M. Patterson,
Director.

To,

Messrs Hon. Levi Woodbury,
Secretary of Treasury.

33

M (33)

Mint of the United States,
March 21, 1840.

Sir,

I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 18th inst., on the subject of the operations in the New Orleans Branch Mint, and particularly respecting the qualifications of the Coiner. My last letter from this office is of the 3d inst. In it he makes the following remarks:

"Our Mint is going on more prosperously than at any previous time. I am happy to state that I have been enabled to coin all the Bullion [meaning ingots, of course] I could get, and at the same time to turn my attention to the repairs of the machinery &c. I have but one trouble, which is on account of the dies, as I could not use any you sent ~~but~~ except the half-dollars and half-dimes, - the quarter dollar press not being completed, and the dimes not wanted. I have however coined a few half-eagles in the dime-press: [the quarter-dollar press being the proper one for these coins.] With the half-dollar dies I have coined about 90,000 pieces, and have but one pair more which I fear will not stand to coin as many more. With the half-dimes, I have coined about 100,000 pieces, but on account of one of the tail-dies being cracked in hardening, I expect soon to go ashore on that tack. The fault is not alone in the hardening, for I have

been working bad silver, and, besides, my Annealer is inexperienced. Other circumstances, such as too much or too little milling, have tended to wear out the dies, - all of which difficulties require patience with skillful practice to overcome: &c."

Mr. Tyler here details some of the difficulties to which his operations are exposed, and for which the ignorant or the ill-disposed will not make allowance, and yet he says that "he has been enabled to coin all the silver he could get." It is true that the New Orleans Mint has done but little this year, yet you will see, from the report which I send you by the present mail, that the coinage has been almost double of the deposits in January and February.

My opinion, then, is, that if there has not yet been time to enable me to give an absolutely favorable judgment as to Mr. Tyler's qualifications, I cannot yet see any thing in his course that should lead to a contrary conclusion.

I sincerely hope that your letter does not indicate the existence, on the part of any officer of the New Orleans Mint, of the disposition to denounce and injure other officers, which had so baneful an influence in the former Corps. Almost the same accusations now hinted at against Mr. Philip Tyler were made against his brother, and yet his official character was fully sustained by Mr. Slidell, upon the evidence presented to him in the investigation.

I will write to Mr. Kennedy and make inquiry
as to his impressions with regard to Mr. Tyler's dis-
charge of his functions. Happily Mr. Kennedy has
had no connection with the old funds.

Very respectfully,

Your faithful servant,

R. W. Patterson,
(Director.)

To/

Hon. Levi Woodbury,

Secretary of the Treasury. }

Embued a copy of this
to Col. Benton
W

M

(34)

34

Mint of the United States.
March 21st, 1840.

Sir,

I have the honor to present to you the annexed report of the operations of the Branch Mint, for January and February. Henceforward these reports will be sent monthly, in compliance with the instructions given in your letter of the 7th inst.

Very respectfully,

Your faithful servant

R. W. Patterson,
Director.

To/
Hon. Levi Woodbury,
Secretary of the Treasury.

Send a copy of them to Col. Benton

W

*Statement of the Deposits, and Coinage at the
Branch Mints, in the Months of January & February, 1840.*

Gold:

	<i>Foreign Bullion. Dollars.</i>	<i>U. S. Bullion. Dollars.</i>	<i>Total. Dollars.</i>
<i>Charlotte Branch Mint,</i>		23,533.	23,533.
<i>Dahlonega Branch Mint,</i>		14,060.	14,060.
<i>New Orleans Branch Mint.</i>	3,697.		3,697.
	3,697.	37,593.	41,290.

Silver:

<i>New Orleans Branch Mint.</i>	40,097.
<i>Sum of Deposits</i>	81,387.

Recapitulation.

<i>Deposited at Charlotte Branch Mint,</i>	23,533.
<i>Deposited at Dahlonega Branch Mint,</i>	14,060.
<i>Deposited at New Orleans Branch Mint.</i>	43,794.
<i>as above</i>	81,387.

Coinage.

<i>Mints.</i>	<i>Gold.</i>		<i>Silver.</i>				<i>Total.</i>
	<i>Half- eagles.</i>	<i>Value.</i>	<i>Half- dimes.</i>	<i>Dimes</i>	<i>Half- Dollars.</i>	<i>Value.</i>	<i>Value.</i>
	<i>Pieces.</i>	<i>Dollars.</i>	<i>Pieces.</i>	<i>Pieces.</i>	<i>Pieces.</i>	<i>Dollars.</i>	<i>Dollars.</i>
<i>Charlotte,</i>	1,972.	9,860.	.	.	.	.	9,860.
<i>Dahlonega,</i>	4,437.	22,185.	.	.	.	.	22,185.
<i>New Orleans.</i>	3,000.	15,000.	176,000.	130,000.	74,000.	58,800.	73,800.
	9,409.	47,045.	176,000.	130,000.	74,000.	58,800.	105,845.

M

35

35

Mint of the United States,
March 23^d, 1840.

Sir,

I have the honor to acknowledge
the receipt of your letter of the 20th inst., with
the communication from the U.S. Consul at Hesse-
Cassel, and the coins which were sent with it.

Very respectfully,

Your faithful servant,

J. M. Patterson,
(Director)

(To)

Hon. Levi Woodbury,
Secretary of Treasury.

M

(36)

Mint of the United States.
March 31st, 1849.

Sir,
I have the honor to acknowledge
the receipt of your letter of the 24th
inst., transmitting a communication
and a series of coins sent by the U.S.
Consul at Tripoli.

Very respectfully,
Your faithful servant,
P. M. Patterson,
Director.

To /
Hon. Levi Woodbury,
Secretary of the Treasury.

21

Mr (37)

Mint of the United States.
April 15th, 1840.

Sir,
I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 4th inst., transmitting to me a communication from the U. S. Consul at Tunis, with specimens of the coins of that regency.

Very respectfully,
Your faithful servant,
R. W. Patterson,
(Director.)

To
Hon. Levi Woodbury,
Secretary of the Treasury.

M (38)

38

Mint of the United States,
April 10. 1840.

Sir,

I have to acknowledge the receipt of yours of the 8th inst., with a package containing coins and communications from the U. S. Consul at Tunis.

Very respectfully,

Your faithful servant,

R. M. Patterson,
(Director.)

To/

Hon. Levi Woodbury,
Secretary of Treasury.

Mint of the United States,
April 13, 1840.

Sir,

I have the honor to send you herewith a report of the operations of the Branch Mints for March.

The coinage at the New Orleans Mint is the largest ever executed there in one month, and may serve toward an answer to your inquiry as to the efficiency of the present Coiner. I have seen a specimen of the gold, and find it exceedingly well done. - The Treasurer, Mr. Cammack, informs me, in a letter of the 30th ult., that all their gold certificates were paid, and that they had \$22,500 of gold coins on hand; also that the silver certificates were paid up to the 13th of March, on which day a large deposit was made by one of the Banks.

You will observe that the amount of deposits at the Charlotte and Dahlonega Mints have been very small; those of the whole month not being sufficient, at either mint, to make a melt of ingots, so that no coinage was executed.

Very respectfully,

your faithful servant,

R. W. Patterson,
Director

To,

Mr. Levi Woodbury,
Secretary of Treasury.

M 40

40

Mint of the United States.
April 14th, 1840.

Sir,
I have had the honor to receive your letter of the 11th inst., with the enclosed extract of a communication to you from the Superintendent of the Branch Mint at Dahlmeyer, on the subject of a new roof for that Mint, with regard to which you ask my opinion.

In answer, I have to state that I have had a correspondence with Dr. Singleton with respect to the roof in question, and that, after full inquiry, I am disposed to agree with him that the best course he can now take is to cover the building with shingles. We know that such a roof will not leak, and I think there is but little cause to apprehend its taking fire. Most of our manufactories here, have wooden roofs. The zinc roof now on the Dahlmeyer Mint is so bad, that the building is in danger of ruin. Like all the rest of the job there, it seems

to have been wretchedly executed. If a
new metallic roof is to be put on, the
workmen must be sent from Philadelphia,
and the cost would be considerable. More-
over, even then, there would be no certaint-
ty of a secure and permanent roof, un-
less it were made of copper.

Very respectfully,

Your faithful servant,

P. M. Patterson,
Director.

To / Hon. Levi Woodbury,
Secretary of the Treasury. *Antonia the daughter of*
I selling the
Dear if can
to help pay

W

M (41) 41

Mint of the United States,
April 16, 1840.

Sir,

I have to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 14th inst., enclosing a copy of one to you of the 13th, from Mr. Benton of the Senate, making inquiries respecting the New Orleans Mint.

In answer to Mr. Benton's first question, I have to state that the New Orleans Mint has a quarter-dollar press, and has had quarter-dollar dies sent to it from here, in January and in March. If no quarter-dollars have been coined, I must presume that it is because they have not been asked for by depositors. Of all silver coins, (except dollars,) they are by far the least in demand here. At New Orleans, the coin most required of the Mint is the half-dime, in which a petty traffic is carried on, in consequence of its being current at $6\frac{1}{4}$ cents. I agree, however, ^{fully} with Mr. Benton, that quarter dollars ought to be coined at New Orleans, and I will call the attention of the Superintendent to this matter.

I am not able to give a positive answer to the question whether they use more than one press at a time, at the New Orleans Mint; but it is certain that they need not employ more than one to strike all

the planchets that they can prepare with their force, and far more than all the bullion given to them for coinage. The deposits in March amounted to but \$13,085 in gold, and \$66,201 in silver. The gold could be struck, in half-eagles, in about an hour and a half, and in quarter-eagles in about three hours. The silver, if coined into half-dollars, would occupy ^{one} ~~and~~ press 44 hours, or less than five days' work: quarter dollars would take somewhat less than twice this time. Our present rate of coining dimes & half-dimes, is 84 in a minute, or 5000 pieces in an hour, with one press. A day's work, of ten hours, would therefore give \$5,000 worth of dimes, and \$2,500 of half dimes. The great expenditure of time & labor in making coins is not in the press-work, but in the numerous and often complicated processes necessary to prepare the bullion for the press. During the last year, when we coined more than \$3,000,000 worth, there was not, on an average, more than one press constantly employed, and in the work done I include the striking of upwards of three millions of cents.

I have not supplied the New Orleans Mint with dies for the eagle, because I think it better that the small amount of gold which they receive should be coined into half and quarter eagles.

I desire, as sincerely as Mr. Benton, that there

may be no more excuses from the New Orleans
Mint, and especially such excuses as occurred last
year, in the death of two of the officers and the
removal of two others. At present, the prin-
cipal excuse to be apprehended is a deficiency
of bullion for coinage.

Very respectfully,

Your faithful servant,

D. M. Patterson,
(Director.)

(To)

Hon. Levi Woodbury,
Secretary of Treasury. }

Sent a copy of this
to Mr. B. W.

M (42)

Mint of the United States,
April 22, 1840.

Sir,

In the close of my letter to you of the 21st ult., in reply to your inquiries respecting the qualifications of the Coiner of the New Orleans Mint, I mentioned that "I would write to Mr. Kennedy, and make inquiry as to his impressions with regard to Mr. Tyler's discharge of his functions." I have now the honor to send you copies of my letter to Mr. Kennedy, and of his answer, received this morning.

Very respectfully,

Your faithful servant,

P. M. Patterson,
Director.

To/

Hon. Levi Woodbury,
Secretary of Treasury.

file

96 April
M. Kea

M.

(43)

43

(Copy)

"Mint of the United States,
March 24, 1840."

Sir,

"By a letter received from the Secretary of the Treasury, I am sorry to learn that attempts have been made, I presume indirectly, to convey to his mind impressions unfavorable to the official character of Mr. Tyler. Under such circumstances it becomes my duty to apply to you for information, and for your frank opinions."

"I will ask you, then, whether you have or have not found Mr. Tyler attentive to his business in the Mint: whether he has shown a proper anxiety to get forward with his work, and whether he has succeeded in doing so, to your satisfaction. I wish you particularly to state whether or ingots have been allowed to accumulate unreasonably in his hands or in the hands of the Treasurer: whether, from time to time, he has ~~not~~ coined all the ingots prepared for him; in a word, whether the Coiner has been able to keep pace with the Melter. Has it ever happened that the Coining has been stopped for want of ingots?"

"If the Coinage is much behind the supply of ingots, how far is this to be ascribed to the demand for half-dimes? If this demand stands in the way of your paying off depositors, can it not be resisted, or at least reduced to a reasonable extent? I am told that half-dimes

are asked of you because they can be passed ^{in New Orleans} at 25 per cent. above their legitimate value, in New Orleans. On the supposition, then, that ~~that~~ this coinage tends to keep the Mint behind-hand & in debt, might it not be right to inquire whether such a result should be submitted to, for the encouragement of what is at least a paltry traffic, if not an absolute fraud?"

"If you think that the insinuations against Mr. Tyler are unfounded, I would suggest to you the propriety of considering the subject of this communication confidential, - as, otherwise you must expect to see suspicion and ill-blood excited among your officers, and the deplorable scenes revised which but a few months ago had nearly destroyed your institution. I most earnestly hope that the spirit of intrigue is not again busy among you. One more investigation like the last, and your institution will have reached its end."

"Very respectfully,

Your faithful servant,

(Signed) R. M. Patterson,
Director."

"To)

Jos. M. Kennedy, Esq.,
Supr. U.S. Mint,
New Orleans."

(Copy.)

44

U.S. Branch Mint, N. Orleans,
April 12, 1840.

Sir,

"It was with no small degree of surprise that I learned from your letter of the 24th ult. that attempts had been made (indirectly you presume) "to convey to the mind of the Secretary of the Treasury, impressions unfavorable to the official character of Mr. Tyler". Under such circumstances you apply to me for information and for my frank opinion. I will answer your inquiries in the order in which they are made.

"I have always found Mr. Tyler attentive to his business in the Mint, he has shown a proper anxiety to get forward with his work, and I have no cause to be dissatisfied with him. The fact of an unreasonable accumulation of ingots in his hands, or in those of the Treasurer, has never come to my knowledge, - he has "from time to time" coined all the ingots prepared for him, and has also been able to keep pace with the Melters. If it has happened, but once or twice only, that a little delay has taken place in the department of the latter, it was, first, because a considerable quantity of bullion (some of which we still have on hand) has required separating, and that it is difficult here, and sometimes impossible to obtain the acids, - and in the next place, on account of the necessity of returning a large number of ingots to be refined, from the circumstances of their containing antimony. - The demand for half-dimes has not been of late very considerable. Should it ever become so, that coinage shall be restricted within

such limits, as will not keep the Mint "behind hand" in debt."

"I have no fault to find with any of the officers. In the Mint they all appear to be disposed so to discharge the duties of their respective departments, as to preserve the money in the institution, and to win for it your approbation and the confidence of the public. If there be any extralimitary intrigue on foot, I do not know it. Have you any idea of the source from which the Secretary of the Treasury has derived his information? You suggest to me the propriety, if I think the insinuation against Mr. Tyler unfounded, of considering the subject of your communication confidential. Having much confidence in Mr. Cammack, and knowing how great a degree he has the interests of the Treasury at heart, I have deemed it proper to show the communication to him, with the same injunction and with the request that he will state at the foot of this letter, whether he concurs with me in the statement I have given at your desire."

Very respectfully,

Your obed^t. Servant,

(Signed) Jos. M. Kennedy,
Supt. "

To, }
R. M. Patterson, Esq., }
Director, &c., Phil.^a }

"I concur in the above letter. I think Mr. Tyler has always shown great anxiety to get forward with the coinage."

(Signed) "S. C. Cammack,
Treasr. "

Ms (44)

45

Mint of the United States,
April 28. 1840.

Sir,

I take the liberty of transmitting
to you, by the present mail, a box of dies
for the Branch Mint at New Orleans, to be
forwarded under your frank to the Superintendent
at, as addressed upon the inner envelope.

Very respectfully,

Your faithful servant,

R. M. Patterson,
(Director)

To:

Hon. Levi Woodbury,

Secretary of Treasury.

43

46

Mint of the United States,
May 11, 1840.

Sir,

Your communication of the 29th ult. contains an "extract from the account of G. H. Slacum, Consul of the U. States at Rio Janeiro, being his charge for coins furnished for the Mint."— You take occasion to remark, that "it is desirable this and similar accounts forwarded to the Mint should be arranged as early as practicable, that the parties may be credited here in their respective accounts with the Government."

In attending to this suggestion, allow me to ^{state} ~~say~~ that at the time I made request of the Department for its influence in obtaining suits of coins from foreign countries, (which was promptly accorded,) it was proposed that the accounts of Consuls, for the same, should be allowed and settled at the Treasury, to be refunded by the Mint. With this understanding, I have been delaying the settlement of such accounts, until they should seem to have been pretty generally rendered, so as to make but one statement of the transaction. Most of the Consuls addressed have now transmitted the desired coins, but only five specific bills therefor have been forwarded; viz: those of the Consuls at Amsterdam, Hamburg, St. Petersburg,

Copenhagen, and Rio Janeiro. - In obedience to your direction, however, I now render an account of the bills just referred to, and beg to know what disposition to make of the money, which is a part of a special appropriation for Coins to be reserved at the Mint, and is in readiness to be paid.

Future accounts of a similar kind will be settled as they shall be received.

It may be proper to add, that the Coins received from the Consul at Stockholm have been - and those from Leipzig are to be, settled here, without passing through the Department.

Very respectfully,

Your faithful servant,

R. M. Patterson,
Director.

To/

Hon. Levi Woodbury,
Secretary of Treasury. }

Emm. Griffin

Minst of the United States,

To the United States, Dr.

For amount of bill rendered by Consul at Amsterdam, for coins,				\$ 15.93
"	do	do	Hamburg, "	63.63
"	do	do	St. Petersburg, "	55.28
"	do	do	Copenhagen, "	22.75
"	do	do	Rio Janeiro, "	25.45
				<u>\$ 183.04</u>

May 4. 1840.

M (46)

47

Mint of the United States,
May 7th, 1840.

Sir,

I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 5th inst., enclosing the bond of Dr. M. Clinlock, Miller & Refiner of this Mint, for my approval. I return it with my certificate to this effect annexed; but will remark that there was a misapprehension in supposing that the act of March 3d, 1835, applied to this case. Its action is confined to the Branch Mints. The sixth section of the act of Jan. 18, 1837, simply requires that the bond & sureties of the Officers of the Principal Mint shall be "to the satisfaction of the Secretary of the Treasury".

Very respectfully,

Your faithful servant,

R. M. Patterson,
(Director.)

(Co)

Ston. Levi Woodbury,
Secretary of Treasury. }

Look into this & send
I must approve
& report
W

M (47)

40

Mint of the United States,
May 12, 1840.

Sir,

You are aware that all my efforts to call the attention of Congress to the errors and evils arising from the existing laws making certain foreign coins a legal tender have failed. There is one form in which this matter presents itself that is particularly annoying, and where the remedy may be applied, as I presume, by a simple instruction from yourself. I refer to the reissue, from the Mints themselves, of foreign coins derived from the government for paying ordinary expenses. At the New Orleans Mint, the Treasurer informs me that he has coined such moneys to be recoinied; but this course will always have the effect of changing the nominal value of the amount, and will require that corresponding entries be made in the Bullion Profit & loss account. Under these circumstances, I do not think it proper to act in the case, without authority from the Department, and I accordingly ask for such authority.

In connection with this subject it may not be improper to direct your attention to the 3d Section of the "Act regulating foreign coins, and for other

Purposes", passed Feb. 9, 1793. It is as follows:

"That all foreign gold and Silver coins, (except Spanish Milled dollars and parts of such dollars,) which shall be received in payment for monies due to the United States, after the said time, when the coining of gold and Silver coins shall begin at the Mint of the United States, shall, previously to their being issued in circulation, be coined anew, in conformity to the Act entitled an Act ~~entitled an Act~~ establishing a mint, and regulating the coins of the United States."

I suppose that the subsequent laws making foreign coins a legal tender have virtually superseded this enactment, - but it shows the views of the government at the time, and what I believe to be its true policy now.

Very respectfully,

Your faithful servant,

R. M. Patterson,
(Director)

To,

Hon. Levi Woodbury,
Secretary of Treasury. }

There does not appear to be
any objection to giving the
authority asked for by Dr
Patterson -

I would suggest,
however, whether it would not
be better, instead of making
any alteration in the bullion
profit & loss account, to make up
the difference out of the contri-
bution fund - particularly as the prof-
it on the copper coinage is now
carried to that fund -

Respy submitted
orders -

May 16. 1840
Am. 19th -

Wrote accordingly

W

W. S. 36/2nd May
W. S. 36/2nd May
W. S. 36/2nd May

Sir,

I have

been to you

Finlay

account, &

asked by

will call

T. H. 36/2nd May
W. S. 36/2nd May
W. S. 36/2nd May

M (48)

49

Mint of the United States.
May 13th, 1844.

Sir,

I take the liberty of sending, under
cover to you, the enclosed paper for Gov.
Findlay, being a part of his Copper
account, of which explanation had been
asked by the Auditor. Gov. Findlay
will call for it at your office.

Very respectfully,

Your faithful servant,

P. M. Patterson,
Director

To
Hon. Levi Woodbury,
Sec. of Treasury.

M 49

Minist of the United States.
May 14th, 1841.

Sir,

I have just had a visit from Judge Fox, a brother-in-law of Mr. Benezet, who stands accused of delinquencies at the Mint, as stated to you in my letter of the 11th inst. Judge Fox has proposed that the accounts which are submitted by us to justify the course taken with regard to Mr. Benezet, should be examined by Mr. Ingham and Mr. Kane, whose opinions, in the case, would satisfy the family of Benezet, and would harmonize with the Department. I have, of course, freely assented to this examination. In the mean while it is desired that no further steps should be taken with ^{Mr.} Benezet.

Very respectfully,

Your faithful servant,

P. M. Patterson,
Director.

copy 2/11/41

affirm substance

suggestion

To Hon. Levi Woodbury,
Sec. of Treasury.

May 14
Leav

M (50) 51
Office of Solicitor of the Treasury
May 14-1840

Sir.

I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of Mr. Patterson's letter of the 11th inst. with your endorsement thereon directing me to report the proper course to be pursued in relation to the subject of its contents, and the proper mode of securing the sum due either here or at Philadelphia.

In reference to the original contract for selling copper coin I have to state that on application to the Register, First Comptroller and Treasurer of the U. States, I was informed that neither the contract, or a copy is to be found in their offices, nor is the bond of Benozet or a copy of it on file with them.

There appears to be a deficit of \$1,141.36 in the ordinary account of the Treasurer of the Mint, which accrued under the administration of Governor Findlay and before filing his second bond. It is not probable that the bondsmen are liable for this. The deficit did not accrue under the first, which became null on the confirmation of the 2^d appointment by the Senate. This is however of little consequence, as I understand the Treasurer is responsible and the money can be collected if he is liable to pay it.

My impression is that for this sum he is clearly bound upon principles of general law. The sum of \$8,152.42 presents some difficulty. In an equitable point of view it is doubtful whether Mr. Findlay ought, and as a matter of law I think there may be some doubt whether he can be made to pay it. If the money was legally in the hands of Benozet as an officer of the Mint at the time

it was diverted to private uses or abstracted Mr Findlay was not its keeper, and by law he would not be bound for it unless it could be traced to his hands, at a subsequent period.

The 3^d section of the Act of 1837 authorized the Director with the approbation of the President to appoint Clerks for the Treasurer whose duty it was to perform such duties as were prescribed to them by the director.

The 6th section also requires bonds in such sums as the director shall determine to be taken of the Clerks payable to the U.S. State, conditioned for the faithful and diligent performance of the duties of their offices. These seem to be the provisions of the Act of 1837 bearing upon the case, and I am not aware that any prior act was in this respect substantially different.

To secure the amount due I would suggest that suit be immediately instituted against Mr. Benezet at Philadelphia for the whole amount of the defalcation, unless he will voluntarily enter into obligations to secure it. For this purpose the acct. should be stated with as little delay as possible. The Treasurer should also be called on for that part of the debt growing out of the general account, and if thought advisable to attempt a recovery from him of the residue like measures would be proper.

Very respectfully, yours

Hon:

Levi Woodbury
Secretary of the
Treasury

P. S. Mr Patterson

Wm Bickard
Solicitor of the Treasury

We now charge him with the balance due to the Treasury

M (57)

52

Mint of the United States,
May 16, 1840.

Sir,

I have the honor to send you herewith, a Statement of the operations of the Branch Mints, in the month of April.

Very respectfully,

your faithful servant,

A. M. Patterson,
Director.

To,

Hon. Levi Woodbury, }
Secretary of Treasury.

M 52 file

53

Mont of the United States.
May 27th, 1840.

Sir,

Mr. Ingham and Mr. Kane, - to whom it was agreed to submit the accounts which gave rise to the suspicions against Mr. Bennett, before any further measures were taken in the case, - were at the Mont this morning: Mr. Bennett, his friend and relative Judge Jose, and Mr. Torbert of the First Auditor's office, being also present.

I regret to say that an indispensable engagement of Mr. Ingham's puts it out of his power to enter now upon the proposed investigation, and that it is postponed until the 9th of June.

Very respectfully,

Your faithful servant,

R. M. Patterson,
Director.

To Hon. Levi Woodbury,
Sec. of Treasury.

M

(53)

54

Mint of the United States,
May 27. 1840.

Sir,

I take the liberty of sending to you, by the present mail, a box of dies for the Branch Mint at New Orleans, to be forwarded, under your frank, to the Superintendent, as addressed upon the inner envelope.

Two boxes more, for the same Mint, will be sent by the two next mails.

Very respectfully,

Your faithful servant,

P. W. Patterson,
(Director.)

To: Hon. Levi Woodbury,
Secretary of Treasury. }

attn to this

537 May
Wheat

M

(54)

55

Mint of the United States
June 8, 1840.

Sir,

I take the liberty of sending to you, by the present mail, a box of dies, - directed, on the inner envelope, to the Superintendent of the Branch Mint at New Orleans, - to be forwarded under your frank, as heretofore. This is the last box that will be sent at present.

The receipt, at the Department, of three boxes sent on the 27th, 28th, + 29th ult., has not yet been acknowledged.

Very respectfully,

your faithful servant,

R. M. Patterson,
(Director)

To,
Hon. Levi Woodbury, }
Secretary of Treasury.

Attnd to this

58. May
W. H. W.

Philad^a. 11. June 1840.

My Dear Sir,

Permit me to press upon your consideration the appointment of Mr. Randal Hutchinson to the Clerkship in the Court vacated by Mr. Benzett. I have known Mr. Hutchinson from early youth, through all his professional life, intimately; and firmly believe that you could not select a more faithful, upright, and devoted public officer. Of his capacity I am equally confident, especially for the department of business to which he will give his attention. I do not know that his political principles should be considered except as rounding off other more essential merits:—but he is the son of one whom we esteem the founder of the democratic party in Pennsylvania, and he has uniformly and firmly followed in the footsteps of his father. It will give me personally great pleasure to hear that you have installed him, and I think you will find him an amiable and agreeable associate in the discharge of responsible duties.

Very truly & respectfully,
Dear Sir, Yrs.

C. M. Drake.

Go. Patterson

Director of the Court.

M

(56)

57

Mint of the United States,
June 12, 1840.

Sir,

In my letter to you of the 11th ult., I mentioned that I had found it my painful duty to remove Mr. John S. Beneset from his situation as a clerk in the Mint. It was subsequently agreed that no action should be taken in the case, until an investigation, asked for by Mr. Beneset's friends, should be completed, and that, in the mean time, Mr. Beneset should be considered as ^{if} merely under suspension. In my letter of yesterday, I informed you that the investigation was closed, and had not led to any conclusion calculated to change my views with regard to the alleged defalcation. I have this morning received a letter from Judge Fox, in which he states that he is "Satisfied that Beneset cannot remain clerk to Gov. Hindlay." - The removal must, therefore, be considered as final, and the business of the Treasurer's office requires that the vacancy should be filled without delay.

+ Under these circumstances, I beg leave to apply, through you, for the President's approbation of the appointment of Mr. Randall Hutchinson as a clerk to the Treasurer of the Mint, in the place vacated

by Mr. Benzel. Mr. Hutchinson is a gentleman well and favorably known in our City, and is recommended to me strongly as one who would fill the vacant situation with skill, zeal, and fidelity. In pledge of this character, I do not deem it necessary to send any other authority than the enclosed letter from Mr. Dallas.

The appropriation made for the pay of the Treasurer's Clerks limits the annual salaries to be divided between the new Clerk and the present very efficient Clerk who has charge of the Bullion and Copper accounts, to \$2,200. I propose that \$1,100 shall be allowed to each, and I would respectfully ask the President's approbation of this course. The labor and responsibility attached to these Clerkships would be but imperfectly compensated by the salaries of \$1200 to each, limited by law, and I shall take a suitable opportunity of applying for the President's approbation for such salaries to commence after the close of the present year.

The Mint law of 1837 says that bonds for the faithful and diligent performance of the duties of their situations shall be required of the Clerks, "in such sums as the Director shall determine, with the approbation of the Secretary of the Treasury". The sum in Mr. Benzel's bond was \$1000. I propose that the amount in the

bond to be given by the new Clerk be \$3000.
Very respectfully,

Your faithful servant,
W. M. Patterson,
Director.

To/
Hon. Levi Woodbury,
Secretary of Treasury.

Approved in respect to the nomination
of Clerk & the revision of salaries
W. M. P.

I approve of increasing the Clerk's bond to \$5000 -

Levi Woodbury

M (57)

Minist of the United States.
June 22d, 1840.

Sir, I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 20th inst., announcing the approbation of the President to the appointment of Mr. Randal Ketchum, as one of the Clerks of the Treasury of the United States.

I now send enclosed his oath of office, and his bond for the faithful and diligent performance of his duties.

Very respectfully,
Your faithful servant,
R. M. Patterson,
Director.

~~Both enclosed~~
Both sent to Dept of State by Mr. G.
Bones to Comptroller -
24th

Attnd to - per hand G. W. W.

To Hon. Levi Woodbury,
Sec. of Treasury.

349 per
Long

M, (58)

59

Mint of the United States,
June 15, 1840.

Sir,

I have the honor to send you, herewith, a statement of the operations of the Branch Mints, in the month of May.

Very respectfully,

Your faithful servant,

R. M. Patterson,
(Director.)

To,

Hon. Levi Woodbury,
Secretary of Treasury. }

W^m M^r McKim send this with the account
of the 3^d of March an exhibit - showing
Min^{is} of the United States
June 22^d, 1844. all his

Sir,

see enclosed for

I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 17th inst., relative to the expenditures for establishing the Branch office at New Orleans. I have given to the subject my particular attention, but the following are all the facts that I have been able to gather with regard to it.

By the act of March 3^d, 1835, establishing Branches of the office, the sum of \$20,000 was appropriated for "purchasing sites, erecting suitable buildings, and completing the necessary combinations of machinery," for New Orleans.

On the 8th of April, 1835, Dr. Moore, then Director of the office, issued proposals for contracts for the edifice, to be received, until May 15th, by Gen. Gordon, the Commissioner charged with the whole superintendence and management of this business.

No contract, or copy of a contract, was ever sent here; but it appears that the contract made was submitted to the Department at Washington, where a copy was filed. Indeed no control of our this part of the establishing of the Branch office was given to the Director.

But the duty of procuring the machinery and apparatus was committed to the Director, and some preliminary arrangements for this object were made by Dr. Moore and partially carried into execution, but the final contracts were made by me, on the 31st of Dec. 1835, with different establishments in this city; — the amount, for New

Oleaves being \$43,530. — Thus the appropriation of \$215,000 was to be drawn upon, from time to time, by the Commissioners at New Orleans, and the Directors at Philadelphia.

On the 23d of July 1836, I wrote to Gen. Gordon, to ask information as to the state of the building, &c., but received no answer. On the 15th of Dec., I wrote again, and was answered by a letter dated Dec. 27, and received Jan. 5, 1837. In this letter Gen. Gordon refers to the contract to show that, as \$200,000 was not sufficient for the edifice and machinery, one wing of the edifice was excluded for the present. The contract price for the whole was \$182,000, of which was to be deducted, for the wing, \$40,000. He thus asks for an additional appropriation of \$80,000 for completing the edifice, &c.

In the mean time, however, I had gone to Washington, intending to complete the estimates for 1837, from the information I could collect there. It was there that I first saw a copy of the Contract for the New Orleans street building, and it now appears that I must have misunderstood its terms, for I certainly supposed, (as appears from my estimates and from my correspondence, while there,) that \$182,000 was the contract price exclusive of one wing and of the enclosing of the lot. In my communication to Mr. Cambreling, Chairman of the Committee of Ways and Means, accordingly added together the aforesaid items of \$182,000 for the building, and

of \$43,500 for the machinery, and thus showed an excess of \$25,500 above the appropriation. To this I added, for the mowing, \$50,557, and for the sailing \$10,000, - making an entire item "for completing the steam edifice and enclosing the lot, of \$95,500," in round numbers.

Such is the history of the estimate for 1837. It ought not properly to have come from me, in the first instance; but nothing has been heard for months from Gen. Gordon, either here or at Washington, and to pass over the appropriation entirely, might have arrested the operations at the steam edifice almost. I was forced, therefore, to act on imperfect information, and unfortunately it seems that even that before me was misunderstood. Thus my estimate enclosed that which was afterwards made by Gen. Gordon, by the sum of \$15,500. This, however, ought to have had no effect upon the actual expenditures.

In addition to the amount of the contracts for machinery, I was obliged, in the exigency of the case, to discharge the salaries of officers and wages of laborers, detained here, some months, in acquiring a practical knowledge of their duties; and, besides, many articles of machinery, apparatus, &c., not included in the contracts, were purchased and paid for by me. All these are included and stated fully in my general account and accompanying vouchers, to July 1838, now on file in the Department.

I was consequently obliged to draw considerably more than the precise amount

of the machinery contracts - and from various heads of appropriations - making in all \$68,811.22, of which I had on hand, at the time of my settlement, \$853.01.

99 The memorandum forwarded with your letter shows that from the two appropriations for the office and machinery, amounting together to

there has been drawn, by Gen. Jordan, \$186,275.13
and by me, - - - 47,210 233,485..

which would have expended,

63,914.

It appears, however, from the same memorandum, that Mr. Sartall, the late Treasurer, drew \$50,000, and Mr. Carmack, the present Treasurer, \$4,500. This memorandum gives me the first knowledge of the state of the appropriation, which, indeed, except as to what is included in my account, did not come under my control. I am therefore ignorant of the items which constitute the large expenditure above the contracts, though I know that a considerable expense must have been necessarily incurred. It is only from the audit at other places, or perhaps from the accounts on file at the Department, that the requisite information on this subject can be obtained.

I am aware, Sir, that this reply to the inquiry made in your letter is very imperfect; but it could not otherwise on the subject of expenditures of which by far the greater part were not committed to my charge, and over which I had no control.

W. H. Lewis Woodbury,
Sec. of Treasury.

Very respectfully,
Your faithful servant,
R. M. Patterson,
Director.

MS. 975
June 23
1862

M. C.

61

Mint of the United States,
June 30, 1840.

Sir,

I received yesterday your letter of the 27th inst., with the accompanying statement of the expenditures by Mr. Forstall and Mr. Commack, out of the appropriations made for the Building and Machinery for the Branch Mint at New Orleans. - In your letter you ask me to inform you "whether the outhouses, which have cost very large sums, were built under my direction or with my sanction, and if not, by whose direction they were erected, and of what they consist." You also mention "that there are some heavy charges for furniture, marble mantels, &c.," and ask "whether these expenditures were authorized by me, and whether all or how many officers of the Mint reside in the buildings."

To your several inquiries I have now the honor to present the following answers:

The plans for the Mint Building at New Orleans were prepared under the direction of my predecessor in office, and having received the approbation of the Department, then execution was committed to Martin Gordon, Esq. as Commissioner for this purpose. In December, 1835, he made a visit to Philadelphia, and on the 17th of that month, I wrote to you a letter,

of which the following paragraph is an extract:

"Gen. Gordon of New Orleans, is now with me. We have carefully studied the appropriation of the apartments in the Branch Mint, now building, and find, that besides accommodating all the machinery and operations of the Mint, residences may be found for at least three of the officers, and this without extending the building or increasing the cost. Gen. Gordon will show you the plans next week, and submit them for your approbation."

You will observe, then, first, that no new building or out-building was proposed; secondly, ~~secondly~~ that no increase of cost was to be incurred; and, thirdly, that your approbation was to be obtained by the Commissioner.

In a letter, from Gen. Gordon, of Dec. 27, 1836, after speaking of the insufficiency of the appropriation for completing the whole building, he says: "The part now finished, or nearly so, will be sufficient to go on with the operations of the Mint upon a confined scale. I apprehend, however, that but a temporary inconvenience can be experienced by the officers of the Mint, till the other wing is finished, which will make the edifice complete, according to the plan approved by the Secretary of the Treasury. It must, however, be observed, that the approval was confined as respects the expenditures, to the appropriation made by Congress." In a subsequent part of the same letter,

he says: "When the whole edifice is completed, it will be conveniently calculated for the operations of the Mint, and the accommodation of all its officers with the exception of the Superintendent."

The officers who now reside in the ~~Mint~~ building of the New Orleans Mint, are the Treasurer, the Comptroller, and the Melted & Refiner; and I deem their residence there of great importance to the public interest, by insuring their constant presence at the place of their business, and by the increased security as well as efficiency thereby afforded.

I know nothing of the erection of out-houses, nor have any been built under my direction or with my sanction, - the erection of buildings not having been placed under my control. It is evident, however, that some out-buildings must have been necessary, though I cannot conceive that they should have been of a costly character, and I am much surprised at the bills for this purpose.

On the subject of the furniture purchased for the Mint, I get my first information from the statement, which you have sent to me. Book-cases, tables, desks, chairs, were certainly necessary, as were also mantels and grates. The true question is whether the expenditures, under these heads, were made with a due regard to economy. Mantels seem to enter very largely into the account, but as they are always mixed with other items in the statement, ^{sent to me} and as some of these, - such as labor,

railing, callings, - may have been very costly, it is difficult to judge of the degree of extravagance in this article.

My letter of the 20th gives some account of my own expenditures on account of the New Orleans Mint; as to all others, I am, as you must perceive, very imperfectly informed. It is certain that expenses at New Orleans cannot be judged by the tariff of charges in the northern parts of the United States.

Very respectfully,

Your faithful servant,

R. M. Patterson,
Director.

To / Hon. Levi Woodbury,
Secretary of Treasury. }

P. No 1. July 1

W. M. W.

Write to Mrs. Gordon for
requesting explanation as to
the authenticity of permission
being so expensive - to -

Mint of the United States,
July 7, 1840.

Sir,

I have already told you how much we were embarrassed to find accommodation at the Mint for the exercise of the duties that would devolve upon us when the Independent Treasury should be established. I have now the pleasure to inform you that this difficulty is in some degree removed by an offer generously made by Mr. Peale to give up his office and part of one of his vaults for the purpose. This will expose him to considerable inconvenience, but I hope that new arrangements, on a larger scale, will be made hereafter, for the Sub-treasury, by which the Chief Coiner may have his present accommodations restored to him.

The alterations now required will give rise to some expense, for tearing down and building up walls, - iron-doors for the small vault to be made adjoining the Sub Treasury office, iron-doors for a large vault in the basement, furniture, &c. Some time must also be expended in these preparations for our new duties. I now write, therefore, to ask your authority to commence this work without delay. The President and the Department

May be assured that every exertion shall be made here, to render our action under the new law efficient and acceptable to the public.

I hope you will not require of us the agency of paying government pensions. It really seems to me impossible that we should exercise this task at the Mint. Gov. Findlay is exceedingly anxious on this point.

Until your precise instructions are received, I cannot form a judgment of the nature and amount of the duties to be performed by us under the new law; I cannot, therefore, tell the number of Clerks which will be required. I presume, however, that it will not be less than two, - a book-keeper and a teller.

Very respectfully,

your faithful servant,

P. M. Patterson,

Director.

To
Hon. Levi Woodbury,
Secretary of Treasury }

July 24th

Circulars are being sent to each Depository
under the new law - in a few
days -

One will be sent to the Bureau of the
Ministry of Agriculture as to my
particulars - I hope they will
not be expensive
that not even

an additional ~~burden~~ ^{burden} on me - if any The

The payments into the Fund on this account will seldom be more
than one a week ~~of~~ the transfers nothing - & the
drafts on the Fund by the Treasurer of the
Un. State not average over one per day -

What additional business as to this long
Office ^{Depot} may be required & when is as yet
uncertain - but I do not apprehend
it will be great at present -

W

M 8 July 8
W. H. Kean

Navy Agency Philadelphia July 13th 1840

I have the honor to transmit herewith a Draft
 N° 534. issued on Navy Warrant N° 508. dated 13th June
 1840. Subscribed by D.^{ns} B. Randolph Acting Treasurer of the U States
 and in my favor agreeably to the directions of the ^{Hon^{ble}} Secretary of
 the Navy - Contained in his letter of the 9th Inst.

I am Very Respectfully
 Yr^{ts} Obed^t Serv^t
 Michael H. Hall
 Navy Agent

See Mr. Smith at New. Bk
 Inform the Mr. St. Bk only how much of
 regret it should not have been paid.

of which of which ^{& have} you are to expect

The Hon^{ble} Levi Woodbury.
 Sec^y Treasury U States
 the amount due to us - for
 the collection you
 as to be
 adjoint^r

Regret the License to put it on
 the coll. in

M 63 64
Mint of the United States,
July 14, 1840.

Sir,

The draft made on us yesterday, of \$40,000 payable in gold coins, alarms me for our excellent system of prompt payments. It leaves us only \$46,395 in gold coins, so that we could not now pay for a single large deposit of that metal. There is between 30,000 and 40,000 dollars worth of gold, in transitu, through the operations of the Mint, and, if business continues with us, it is not likely to be much less. Let me pray, then, that, if any opportunity of increasing our gold deposit presents itself to you, you will not forget us.

We have, on hand, of silver coins \$230,500, and about 90,000 dollars worth of silver under operation.

The Collector of the Port sent to our Treasurer, yesterday, a sum of \$36,000 (I think) to be placed with him as subtreasurer. He declined receiving it, however, on the ground that he had no instructions from the Department, no office organized, no books, no clerk, and no vault. In fact the movement of Mr. Blythe was certainly premature. On the receipt of your letter of the 8th, I put a stop to the preparations we had made for fitting up an office, vaults, &c. You had required a report on this matter to be made

to you by the Treasurer of the Mint, after he
should receive your instructions; and the law requires
that none of the measures necessary for the ac-
commodation and management of the Subtreas-
ury shall be made without your Authority.

Very respectfully,

your faithful servant,

R. M. Patterson,
Director.

To/

Hon. Levi Woodbury, }
Secretary of Treasury.

Adm. off.

This note likely will
my want much more in Am.

gold coin - though we may

be obliged to make some other

drafts for specie in the course

of the coming year.

If they should prevent depositors from being
immediately paid ^{they will} ~~they will~~ they will be obliged
to wait the next time - I hope you

will aid the Treasurer in getting on rapidly
with his proposition to receive deposits - tho' I
had supposed & still do he would forthwith take all
which will be offered & keep it securely - This point

Clarke Jr. will argue till he finds, near any
necessary - ^{as new few drafts will be put on him at present} All the circular instructions to him
have been despatched -

See must all put over
shoulder to the wheel with vigor & give the
law a fair chance for success -

In the former
Sundays you & I visited the Treasurer to
confer with him as the Officer having charge
of the building in which his accommodations
are to be provided, to the end that best distribu-
tion of the apartments may be made as well as
to secure the greatest comfort of the public
during their visit - carried out, and he is also to
confer with me as to the form of the building.

The Treasurer has accordingly conferred
with me as to these matters, and he gave me
the recommendations made in my letter to you
of the 7th inst. They are -

1st. To get up the Sub-treasury office
at the old Mass. Courthouse, as the office of the
Land Office, and which he had already

M 64

65

Mint of the United States,
July 15. 1840.

Sir,

Your circulars to the Treasurer of the Mint and myself, regarding certain duties under the act "to provide for the collection, safe-keeping, transfer, and disbursement of the public revenue", were received by us this morning. In the former, I understand you to instruct the Treasurer to consult with me, as the Officer "having charge of the building in which his accommodations are to be provided, to the end that such distribution of the apartments may be made as will best facilitate the different branches of the public service therein carried on", and he is also "to confer with me as to the form of the vaults.

The Treasurer has accordingly conferred with me as to these matters, and he joins me in the recommendations made in my letter to you of the 7th inst. They are -

1st. To fit up, as the Subtreasury office, the room now occupied as the office of the Chief-Coiner, and which he has liberally con-

sented to give up for this purpose. - In this room there will be wanted, desks, cases for books, a counter, and other furniture, and a wall must be torn down to give place for the counter, and for persons having business without their being admitted behind the counter. The cost I estimate at about \$250. -

2d. A small vault adjoining this office, to be made by dividing a vault now occupied by the Chief Coiner into two parts, by a strong wall. A door-way must be broken into this vault, and an iron door procured to fasten it. The cost of this change I estimate at \$200. -

3d. A large vault, in the basement of the building, to be fitted up, and provided with an iron door. Estimated cost \$150. -

Thus the whole supposed cost of the changes necessary for the Subtreasury at the Mint, is \$600. I do not, however, include the books that may be required, but these cannot add much to the whole expense.

We wait your authority to proceed with the proposed changes.

To, } Very respectfully, your faithful servant,
Hon. Levi Woodbury, } R. M. Patterson, Director
Secretary of Treasury. } per Geo. F. Dunning,
Director's Clerk

P. S. The Director was obliged to leave the Mint
before this letter was copied. - G. F. D.

Alfred after
or so from sitting my paper
after seeing my letter of yesterday
from the new time I think the
Surrey will be to begin at
one with the present accumulation,
the business will be at present
so limited - & that his
present clerk will be
sufficient till further time
of extension may show
that another is
needed - It has not
been supposed that another would be
needed for some time - You
should look into the
clerk's money - &
will it come
out in the
nomination
of Mr. O
W

M 65

66

Mint of the United States.
July 15th, 1840.

Sir,

Gov. Findlay and myself both think it very desirable that the clerk to be allowed to the Mint under the act of the 4th inst., "to provide for the collection, safe-keeping, transfer, and disbursement of the public revenue," should be appointed without delay; and in this view, I am sure that you will join us.

I beg leave, therefore, to apply, through you, for the approbation of the President, to the appointment, to this clerkship, of Mr. Joseph H. Purdy, now of Trenton, New Jersey. I have had personal assurances of his fitness and merit which are entirely satisfactory to me, and I send enclosed

testimonials in his favor of the highest character. When these were given, Mr. Purdy was an applicant for the place rendered vacant by the removal of Mr. Bennett, but he now consents to serve in the Subtreasury, though at the reduced and I fear inadequate salary of \$800. — It can hardly be necessary for me to state, that Gov. Findlay joins me as to the propriety of this selection.

Very respectfully,
Your faithful servant,
P. M. Patterson,
(Director.)

To
Hon. Levi Woodbury,
Secretary of the Treasury.

M. 65
Mint of the United States,

July 17, 1840.

Sir,

I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 15th inst.

Our public deposite is one of the most efficient parts of the machinery of the Mint. I mourn over the necessity which, as you announce, is likely to cripple its operation. I took pains to explain to you, on a former occasion, the reasons why deposite made at the Mint cannot always be coined promptly. When we have silver to part from gold, we must wait until we have gold to part from silver, or both processes, if performed separately, would be unnecessarily laborious and expensive. If we have base silver, we should wait till we have a proper proportion of fine, or we must go through an expensive process of refining, which a little delay would render unnecessary. In fact, in a Mint skilfully and economically conducted, there must always be a considerable portion of gold and silver, uncoined, in the hands of the officers; and, if the equivalent of this portion is not supplied to the Mint, by the Government, as a Capital in advance, depositors must be subjected to delays, and the officers to vexations and unjust complaints.

15.18

The Treasurer of the Mint received, this morning, the instructions from your Department for which he has been waiting, and he feels himself now authorized to take the deposit offered to him by the Collector of the Port, and has written to him to that effect. He will use temporarily the vault devoted to the Mint Bullion, until a separate vault can be prepared.

I deem it of great importance that all the operations of the Subtreasury be kept perfectly distinct from those of the Mint; - a separate office, - separate vaults, - separate books, - separate Clerks. The last is, in my judgment, not less necessary than the others: indeed our present clerks are fully occupied, and have their distinct departments to attend to. I took the liberty of naming a suitable clerk for the Subtreasury yesterday; and I hope to hear that the appointment has been approved.

I take great interest in this new measure of the government, which accords with my views of Political economy, and to which I therefore heartily wish success. I am, of course, particularly anxious that the part of its execution which is committed to the Mint, should give satisfaction, and our officers have shown themselves willing to sacrifice their comforts and their rights, to afford the accommodation necessary for this purpose. The requisite

arrangements are now delayed, only until your authority to make them shall be received.

Very respectfully,

your faithful servant,

R. M. Patterson,
Director.

To,

Hon. Levi Woodbury,

Secretary of Treasury.

P.S. Will you do me the favor to send me copies of the act and of your circular instructions, — such as you have sent to the Treasurer.

67

The 66
Mint of the United States,
July 22, 1840.

Sir,

I had yesterday the pleasure of receiving your letter of the 18th inst. I immediately wrote to Mr. Purdy to inform him of his appointment, and sent him a form of a bond to be executed by him, filled up with the amount of \$5,000, - this being the sum introduced by you in the bond of our last Clerk, Mr. Hutchinson.

A deposit of \$46,425.93 was made, in the sub-treasury, yesterday, from the Philadelphia Custom House. It is made up, in part, of Mexican dollars and French Five-franc pieces. This circumstance induces me again to call your attention to the remarks made in my letter to you of the 12th of May last, and which apply fully to the present case. It seems to me most unbecoming that foreign coins should be paid away from the Mint, and especially such coins as do not correspond in denomination with our own. Now this evil could be remedied if the Mint were authorized by the Department to exchange the foreign coins paid into the sub-treasury for the United States coins. If our public deposit be not seriously diminished, the payments could always be made at once, so that

there would be no interruption in the operations of the Sub-treasury. If the opening of a Coin Profit and Loss Account in the Sub-treasury books is objected to, I think there would be no objection to authorizing it in the Mint Books, as you have done in the case of moneys furnished to us for our own Ordinary Expenses.

I respectfully ask your instructions in this matter.

Very respectfully,

Your faithful Servant,

A. M. Patterson,
(Director)

To/

Hon. Levi Woodbury,

Secretary of the Treasury. }

I see no objection
to the Entry
of it so as to
it as with new
& Phil. W.

M (67)

68

Minist of the United States.
July 23d, 1840.

Sir,

Your letter of the 15th inst. was duly received, with the accompanying specimen of an ore, which had been given to you as "supposed to contain a portion of silver and perhaps of gold."

It was easy to see that the ore was nothing more than galena, or the sulphuret of lead. But, at your request, Mr. Eckfeldt has subjected it to analysis, and finds it to be composed as follows:

Lead	---	84.70
Sulphur	---	13.00
Silver	---	0.17
Silex	---	1.90
Loss	---	0.23
		100.00

Show this to the
gentleman who
left the
specimen
W

You see that there is but a mere trace of silver, such as almost uniformly is found with lead.

Very respectfully,
Your faithful servant,

R. M. Patterson.

By Act of
Hon. Levi Woodbury.

M

68

69

Mint of the United States

Augt. 1st 1840

Sir,

In a postscript to your letter of the 24th. ult., you ask, "Would it not be well hereafter to have all dies for particular coins of the same diameter?"

I answer that one of my first measures, after entering the Mint, was to fix these diameters definitively, (if possible,) - that they have not been varied since that time, - and that there is no intention to change them. I made our coins correspond in proportion, as nearly as possible, to the later coins of France and England, and I made the diameters of the coins of different values, of each metal, such that they should all be similar solids. The following is a table of the diameters adopted.

Dollar	1.50 inches
Half dollar	1.20
Quarter dollar	.95
Dime	.70
Half dime	.60
Eagle	1.05
Half Eagle	.85
Quarter Eagle	.70
Cent	1.10
Half Cent	90

Very respectfully,
 Your Obedt. Servant
 R. M. Patterson,
 Director.

54
 Hon. Levi Woodbury }
 Sec. of Treasury }

M. 69

70

Philadelphia
Aug. 3d, 1840.

Sir,
On the specimen sent to me with your
letter of the 1st inst., I immediately recognised
an old acquaintance, — a piece of the same kind,
also from Ohio, having been before submitted
to us. It is of no value. The black
metallic part is common specular iron ore,
(magnetite.) Below it is a plate of iron pyrites,
(sulphuret.) The gangue appears to be slate.

Very respectfully,
Your faithful servant,
P. M. Patterson.

To / Hon. Levi Woodbury.

Send a copy of this
to Mr. W.
4

M 70

71

Mint of the United States.

August 3d, 1849.

Sir

In compliance with your instructions, I have this day certified, in the weekly return of the Treasurer of the Mint, (being the last of the month,) that the balance therein reported as in his hands, is found, on a careful examination, to be really in the subtreasury, ^{here,} in silver coins.

The counting of the coins is done by the Mint hands, under the inspection of my confidential clerk, whose report to me is the basis of my certificate. You are aware that it would be impossible for me to superintend this counting personally. My clerk marks and seals the boxes and bags, and these I count; but I assume that the labels are correct. Thus far our count has corresponded exactly with that of the Custom house.

On the day, (Monday,) when the Sub-treasurer's statements are prepared, the weekly deposits are received from the Customs-house, and this amount is reported. This report is made on the faith, ^{that} the account of the Customs-house is correct, as there cannot have been time to repeat it. If any error be subsequently found, it will be noticed in the next statement.

The regular books for the Sub-treasury accounts are not yet quite ready, but are very nearly so. The Clerk, Mr. Purdy, has entered upon the execution of his duties.

The Sub-treasury moneys are still in the bullion vault of the Mint, but we expect that the appropriate vaults will be ready in a few days.

Some foreign quarters and half dollars had been received by the Customs-house, and deposited in the Sub-treasury. They proved to be very much under weight, and are really not a legal tender. We shall receive them, under your instructions, and charge the loss

to the contingent account of the office.
It would be scandalous for the United
States to pay away such money, even if
individuals would consent to receive it.
Judge Blythe will be cautious not to
take this kind of money in payment
hereafter.

Very respectfully,
Your faithful servant,
R. M. Patterson,
Director.

To
Hon. Levi Woodbury,
Secretary of the Treasury.

71

72

Mint of the United States,
August 3, 1840.

Sir,

In a letter from the Superintendent of the New Orleans Mint, of the 20th ult., he states, on the authority of a report from the Coiner, that certain repairs in the Machinery, and especially in the Steam-engine, will render necessary a suspension of the ordinary work of that Mint, for three or four weeks. At this season of the year when very little business is done at New Orleans, this may not give rise to any serious inconvenience.

Mr. Kennedy also mentions that it is the desire of Mr. Tyler to take advantage of this suspension of work, to make a visit to the Mint here, and he consults me as to the propriety of granting the required leave of absence. I am somewhat embarrassed by this question; because there is unhappily a party-feeling in that Mint, (I do not mean political,) and every movement on the part of the Officers may be made a cause of accusation. On the other hand, I do sincerely think that it would be very desirable that both Mr. Tyler and

6 Aug
Know

Dr. Riddell should pass a few days with us here, and witness the several operations, - an imperfect acquaintance with which seems to have been the origin of the troubles and misunderstandings at the New Orleans Mint.

A word from you to me, consenting to such a visit, (if they choose to make it, at their own cost,) would remove the possibility of its being used to their own injury, while I believe it would be a real and permanent advantage to their institution.

Very respectfully,

Your faithful servant,

R. M. Patterson,
(Director)

To/

Hon. Levi Woodbury,
Secretary of the Treasury.

Thinking
of him
as
a
man
of
the
highest
character

much surprised
if chance to take
it at an
expense

W

Mr 72

73

Mint of the United States.
Aug. 7th, 1840.

Sir,

I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 5th inst., with the accompanying communication and collection of coins sent by the U. S. Consul at Vienna. Mr. Schwarz's letter to you is returned. His bill will be paid by us according to his instructions.

Very respectfully,

Your faithful servant,

P. M. Patterson,
Director.

J. H. Lewis Woodbury,
Secretary of the Treasury.

M

73

74

U. S. Consulate at Vienna April 24th 1840.

To the Honorable L. Woodbury
Secretary of the Treasury Department
of the United States of America

Honorable Sir.

In conformity to two letters
of 22nd Apr^l and 9th May from R. M. Patterson
Esq^{re} Director Gen

Phil^{la} I he

a Packet of

saving

current

also to Phil^{la}

of arch. nph

W

73

74

U. S. Consulate at Vienna April 24th 1840.

To the Honorable L. Woodbury
Secretary of the Treasury Department
of the United States of America

Honorable Sir.

In conformity to two letters
of 22nd Apr^l and 9th May from R. M. Patterson
Esq^{re} Director General of the U. S. Mint in
Phil^{la}. I herewith beg leave to hand you
a Packet for the said Gentleman con-
taining a piece of every Coin at present
current in the Austrian Monarchy, as
also the ~~the~~ Volume on the Coinage of this
Country.

You may soon expect a similar Packet
of the Duplicate Coins with the 2nd Vol
of said Work. My disbursements were
129 fls 38^{ct}, which by to day's Exchange are
equal to £ 13. 3. 5 Sterling.

I avail myself of this opportunity
to confirm the receipt of your Department's
official Letter dated 9th August 1834 as also
the Circular of August 7th 1838 the
Questions therein however simple, they

are still by no means ready to answer
satisfactorily and I entreat some time
longer, and the more so as I am so over-
loaded by accumulated Affairs in
consequence of being some time on a Sick
Bed, but be assured I will not omit or
delay longer than needs must in complying
to your wishes, and I am with great Esteem

Honorable Sir

Your most obedient and
most humble

J. J. Schwarz
U. S. Consul

75
Mint of the United States,
Aug. 8th, 1840.

Sir,

I send herewith the usual report of gold deposits and coinage at this Mint for the past month. The amount of gold on hand uncoined seems large, but has been already much reduced by a recent coinage of half-eagles.

I have thought it would be interesting to you to have a table of the deposits and coinage at the several mints for the first half of the present year, and I have accordingly caused such a one to be prepared, and now send it to you. You will not fail to be struck with the very small amount of business done at the two Gold Mints, particularly that at Dahlonega.

In your letter of the 24th ult., you recommend that the gold coinage be confined, as much as possible, to eagles. The table sent to you will show that this has been done for some months past. The amounts, for the first seven months of the year, are as follows:

In eagles —	\$ 301,020.
In half-eagles —	134,940.
In quarter-eagles —	22,845.

Very respectfully,

your faithful servant,

To,
Hon. Levi Woodbury,
Secretary of the Treasury

R. M. Patterson,
Director.

M 75

76

Mint of the United States,
Aug. 13, 1840.

Sir,

I have the honor to send you, herewith,
a statement of the operations of the Branch
Mints in the month of July.

In the report from New Orleans, the Super-
intendent writes: "The gold coinage would have
been considerably larger, but for an accident
which happened to the machinery on the 30th of
the month, and could not be repaired in time to
enable us to embrace, in that coinage, planchets
amounting to something like \$15,000, which were
ready for stamping."

Very respectfully,

Your faithful servant,

R. M. Patterson,

Director.

To,

Hon. Levi Woodbury,

Secretary of Treasury. }

M

76

77

Mint of the United States,
Aug. 20. 1840.

Sir,

I take the liberty of sending, by the present mail, to your address, a box of dies directed on the inner envelope to the Superintendent of the Branch Mint at New Orleans, to be forwarded under your frank, as heretofore. Three more will be transmitted by the ^{next} three mails.

Very respectfully,

Your faithful servant,

R. M. Patterson,
Director.

To/

Hon. Levi Woodbury, }
Secretary of Treasury }

Attends to them
L

M

77

78

Mint of the United States
Sub-Treasurer's Office Philad^a
Saturday August 22. 1840

Sir

You will find herein enclosed a statement
of my weekly account ending this day as Treasurer
of the Mint under and in pursuance of the Sub-
Treasury Law

Very Respectfully
Your obt. Serv^t

Wm Finckley

Treasurer of the Mint

Hon^r /

Levi Woodbury
Sec^y of the Treasury
Washington

large infly. I request an
order to be made
in aptitude the weekly deposit
of the latter is made
on Friday so as to
enable the Mint to make
collect to make
this weekly
deposit

M *75*
Mint of the United States.

August 25th, 1840.

Sir,

In a letter to me of the 27th ult., you advert to the assertion that Mr. Tyler, of the New Orleans Mint, had succeeded in rolling and coining bars of a melt which he had before rejected as brittle, and which had been the cause of the difficulty between him and Dr. Riddell. In my answer to your letter, I mentioned that I would inquire into this matter, of the Superintendent. I now send you a copy of his reply, which exculpates the Coiner in the fullest manner, by showing that the ingots ~~melted~~ rolled were not of either of the two melts which gave rise to the dispute, nor of a subsequent third melt which had also been rejected, but made part of a fourth melt, which ^{and which rolled with great difficulty and waste.} had never been returned or rejected. It thus appears that the ground taken as proof of Mr. Tyler's incapacity or unfairness, and which was used to injure him in your opinion, was utterly without foundation.

Very respectfully,

Your faithful servant,

R. M. Patterson,
Director.

Check & return
for the *W* *W*

To / Hon. Levi Woodbury,
Secretary of the Treasury.

(Copy.)

U. S. Branch Mint

New Orleans, Aug. 14th. 1840

Sir,

I offer the following explanation, and enclose Reports from the Coiner in reply to the enquiries in your letter of the 30th. ult.;

1840 - 16 May = 1593 Oz. of Gold delivered to the Coiner.
" 19 May = Returned entire (cracked in rolling)
" 29 May = 1947 Oz. Gold } Delivered to Coiner.
" 9 June = 1266 do do }
" 15 June, both deliveries returned entire (cracked in rolling).

The two first were the melts which gave rise to that part of my letter to you of the 5th. of June, mentioning the conflicting opinions of the Melters & Coiner, in relation to the working of the gold, and "the unsuccessful attempts to roll which are described by Mr. Tyler". The third had not ^{at} that time, (as you will perceive by the date,) been delivered.

On the 20th. of June there was another delivery of 2302 Oz. of gold. (It was this melt from which the 8500 \$ were coined.) On that day I wrote Mr. Tyler the following note.

"If you find that the gold which was delivered to you this morning will not work, it is my wish that you should make no trial beyond the 10 lb. ingot. If a contrary result can be produced, even at the cost of a little extra pains, or trouble,

2./
"you will oblige me by taking it."

I received on the 23^d of the same month, from Mr. Tyler the report marked No. 1.

It was at this stage of the matter that I at first thought of having some experiments tried with the gold in my presence. I afterwards abandoned the idea for the reason I have already given you; and, as we had some gold Certificates out, which I was anxious to pay off, I requested Mr. Tyler to see whether he could do any thing with the balance of the melt which had remained in his possession, and had not been rejected, as the Secretary of the Treasury has been informed. After having done so, he sent me the report marked No. 2. - The Secretary's informant might have been set right in this matter, upon application to the Melter & Refiner himself, for, of the first report, I allowed that officer to take a copy, and the contents of the second, I communicated to him verbally. In the two, you will, I think, find answers to all your enquiries to which I have not directly replied,

Very respectfully,

Your Obedt. Servt

(Signed.)

Do. M. Kennedy

R. M. Patterson Esq.
Director of the Mint
of the U. S. Phila-

(Copy.)

Coiners Office, Branch Mint
New Orleans, June 23^d 1840.Joseph M. Kineady Esq
Supt. U. S. Br. Mint,
Dear Sir,

In answer to your letter of Saturday last, I am sorry to say that the gold ingots will not work in the ordinary way. At the time of receiving the ingots, I was informed by the M. & R. that they had been annealed & hammered, and afterwards annealed & pickled by himself, and that they were ready for rolling. Upon this authority, I thought I would roll some of them without first annealing them myself; but in attempting to straighten them from the crooks they had received in hammering, one ingot was accidentally broken, which led me to suppose the others were equally brittle. I then tried them by striking across the corner of the anvil, and some of them broke with almost the brittleness of glass. I then took 5 ingots indiscriminately from the lot, and pass'd them 6 times through the rolls, giving them one ⁸⁰⁰ of a turn of the keys at each time, stretching them in length about 2 inches in all. At the very first time passing them through, the cracks could be seen very plain, which continued opening wider until the 6th. time, when they had not lengthened more than 2 inches; (notwithstanding the Director informs that they should be successively rolled to the length of 2 feet 4 or 5 inches before annealing the second time.) Four or five more were then rolled in your presence, with the same result, after which I received your note above mentioned.

4/
Not feeling satisfied to report upon them without trying some of my own annealing, I stated the same to you, and received in answer, your request to make further trial. I then took 3 ingots and marked them Nos. 1, 2 & 3 which I annealed and rolled as follows. No. 1, not hammered, annealed at nearly red, - dipped in pickle, passed 11 times through the rolls, giving in all, half a turn of the keys, and drawing about 2 inches in length; - cracked on the surface; - annealed again at the same heat, pickled, rolled 4 times through; drawn 1 inch, cracked too bad to finish. No. 2, hammered by M. & R., annealed at lowest red heat, rolled same as No. 1, pickled, rolled again 4 times, drawn 1 inch, cracked same as No. 1. - No. 3, hammered by my foreman, annealed at cherry red, pickled and rolled same as Nos. 1 & 2, annealed at the same heat as at first, pickled, rolled 4 times, cracked the same as Nos. 1 & 2, - rolled 6 times, cracked more at each time.

I then took 4 ingots and rolled them to the usual length of 30 inches, at which length the cracks on the sides had nearly disappeared or drawn over each other, but the edges were quite rough. - I then selected the worst and the best of the four, and annealed them at a moderate heat, then rolled them to the proper length for drawing. The worst is entirely unfit for coins. The best would be subject to great waste in drawing; and if it could be drawn to the proper weight, many of the pieces would be imperfect. - I wish you to examine the pieces with which the experiments were made, and if convenient, I should like you to witness some of the experiments as above. If then you should

5.

copy 79

request me to make as much of it as possible into coins
I will cheerfully do so, notwithstanding the great
waste which must necessarily occur.

Very respectfully,
Your faithful servant
(Signed) P. B. Tyler.

No. 2. (copy)

United States Branch Mint,
New Orleans-Coining Office July 15. 1840.

To / J. M. Kennedy Esq
Superintendent

Sir,

Agreeable to your request, I have worked as
far as practicable the gold in my possession, and find
that the experiments reported to you, were a fair test of its
ductility. About one half was rejected in the first operation
of rolling; the best of the remainder being selected in the
subsequent operations, there remained sufficient to make
about \$8000., which was attended with much trouble
and waste through every operation.

Very respectfully
Your faithful servant
(Signed) P. B. Tyler.

M (80)

82

Mint of the United States,
Aug. 28, 1840.

Sir,

I send enclosed a copy of a letter to the President, announcing the death of Mr. Kneass, the Engraver of the Mint, and recommending the appointment, in his place, of the present Assistant Engraver, Mr. Gobrecht. I also advise, that, in this case, the place of Assistant Engraver be not supplied. The whole duties can now be performed by one engraver, with the aid of an able mechanician, Mr. Saxton, already in our employment; and as the expenses of the Mint establishment, including the Branches, are greatly disproportioned to the work done, it is desirable to effect even a reduction of \$1500 per annum.

Very respectfully,

Your faithful servant,

R. M. Patterson,
Director.

To/

Wm. Levi Woodbury,
Secretary of the Treasury. }

Will Mr. Gilpin
advise in this

case
W

M (87)

83

Mint of the United States.
August 28th, 1849.

Sir,

Your letter of the 22^d inst., and the package of foreign coins transmitted therewith, were duly received, and the amount was, in compliance with your instructions, deposited in the Treasury, the entry in the blotter being as follows:

"Received, (Aug. 23th,) \$50.96, the value of foreign coins directed by the Secretary of the Treasury to be deposited to the credit of the Treasury of the United States, as a receipt from the Customs."

This item will, of course, enter into the weekly transcript to be sent to the Treasury of the U. S. tomorrow.

Very respectfully,

Your faithful servant,
P. M. Patterson,
Director.

To

Wm. Levi Woodbury,
Secretary of the Treasury.

M (Copy.) 82

84

"Mint of the United States,
Aug. 28. 1840."

Sir,

"It has become my painful duty to announce to you the death of Mr. William Kneass, Engraver of the Mint. This event occurred last night, after an illness under which he long suffered, and which has, for some months, disabled him from performing the duties of his office."

"Mr. Kneass was appointed Engraver of the Mint in January 1824, and, during the long period of his service, filled his station with great fidelity, and endeared himself to his fellow-officers by his uniform cheerfulness and amiability. His loss will be much and long regretted by every one connected with the institution."

"I recommend, very respectfully, but without hesitation, that the vacant office should be supplied by the appointment of Christian F. Gobrecht, who is at present Assistant Engraver, and has filled this place for four years. Mr. Gobrecht is an artist of great skill and industry, and, in consequence of the low state of health of Mr. Kneass, has, for a long time, performed nearly all the duties of Engraver. His personal character is altogether un-

exceptionable."

"If this appointment be made, I think it will not be necessary or expedient to supply the place of Assistant Engraver; - as ~~one~~ improvements in the mechanical means of multiplying dies have greatly diminished the labor formerly required of the Engraver."

"I have the honor to be, Sir,

With great respect,

Your faithful servant,"

(signed) "R. M. Patterson,

Director of the Mint"

"To/

The President
of the United States." }

85

M 83

Mint of the United States,
Sept. 12, 1840.

Sir,

The transmission of the monthly report of the operations of the Branch Mints presents a suitable occasion for noticing certain accusations touching the New Orleans Mint, and particularly its Treasurer, which I am told by Col. Wheeler were lately made before him by the Hon. Mr. Benton, and with regard to which I am convinced that this statesman has been deceived.

A general assertion was that the coinage of the New Orleans Mint fell far short of the amount that was justly expected of it. In one sense this is true, and the assertion, I am sorry to say, may now be extended to the Philadelphia Mint. But I understand it to have been implied that this deficiency was owing to negligence or design on the part of the officers. The truth of this accusation is tested at once, by comparing the coinage with the deposits, and a simple inspection of the monthly reports will show that the coinage keeps up with the deposits very satisfactorily: so that the officers are exculpated completely, — for over the amount of deposits they have no direct control. In the report sent to you to day, you will observe that the coinage amounts to \$93,000, and the deposits to only \$26,563.

Some one has informed Mr. Benton that Mr. Cammack

suffer the Mint certificates to be protested for non-payment, and that this is a frequent occurrence, greatly injuring the reputation of the Mint. Mr. Benton is doubly deceived. I have the best reason for knowing that deposits are paid with satisfactory promptitude at the New Orleans Mint. It is frequently reported that they owe nothing on this account, and in a letter received yesterday, with their Monthly Report, it is stated that all deposits are paid, except \$305.03 uncalled for, and that there are on hand \$4000 in silver coins and \$35,000 in gold coins. — It is true that New-Orleans Mint Certificates were formerly protested, but this mortifying circumstance was owing to the disasters that occurred under the first régime of the Mint. — But another point in which Col. Benton has been deceived is in supposing that the Treasurer was the officer to bear the blame if the Mint did not redeem its certificates. On the contrary, this Officer has no control over the Coinage, an unnecessary delay in which must be blamed either upon the Melters & Refiners, or the Coiner, or both.

When facts are shown to be unfounded, it is not perhaps necessary to look into the motives to which they have been ascribed; yet it may not be improper to add that my informant tells me that Mr. Benton had been led to believe that Mr. Cammack kept back the payments, because he was concerned in a brokering establishment, and it was his interest to

make specie scarce. Dr. Riddell who is now, as you know, at this Mint, assures me that Mr. Cammack has no connection with any broker's office.

You are aware that Mr. Cammack was introduced into the New Orleans Mint on the recommendation of the U. S. District Attorney, Mr. Riddell, who had, and I believe deserved, the confidence of the government. I feel no peculiar responsibility, therefore, with regard to his appointment; but it would be ignoble in me to look quietly on, while I believed injustice to be done to a faithful and efficient officer.

My impression is that the New Orleans Mint is now under the charge of competent men, and that we may confidently look to a satisfactory execution of its functions for the future. There was some difficulty from the inexperience of the Melters & Refiners and Coiners, but I am convinced that this is now at an end. The visit of Dr. Riddell to this Mint has given him much important information.

Very respectfully,

your faithful servant,

R. M. Patterson.

To

Hon. Levi Woodbury, }
Secretary of Treasury. }

Check & return this
in the Oct
W.

M

84

86

Mint of the United States,
Sept. 23^d, 1840.

Sir,

The following comparison of the operations of the Mint, for six months, (March to August inclusive,) of 1839 and 1840, is not without interest, and I have therefore judged it right to communicate it to you.

Six Months' deposits at the U. S. Mint.	1839.		1840.	
	Number of deposits.	Value in dollars.	Number of deposits.	Value in dollars.
Gold — — —	141	833,000	283	404,000
Silver — — —	108	743,000	297	511,000
Total	249	1,576,000	580	915,000

From this table it appears, that comparing the present year with the last, we have now twice the number of gold deposits of ~~gold deposits~~, and only half the value : —

Three times the number of silver deposits, and about two-thirds the value : —

More than double the whole number of deposits, with little more than half the value.

Sep
10
This change in our business has the effect of increasing very greatly the labor in the Assayer's and

38
Treasurer's departments, while the labor in the other departments is diminished.

The immediate cause of the change is that the specie business, which used to be transacted by the Banks, and in a large way, has passed from them to the Brokers, who deposit coins and Bullion almost as fast as they receive them, - even in sums scarcely over a hundred dollars.

Very respectfully,

Your faithful servant,

R. M. Patterson,
(Director)

To,

Hon. Levi Woodbury,
Secretary of the Treasury.

M. 85
Mint of the United States,
Sept. 12, 1870.

Sir,

I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 10th, respecting the re-coining of foreign gold coins paid into the Subtreasury at New York. In answer to your inquiries, I have to state that when the amount does not exceed \$50,000, I believe it could always be replaced by us without any delay, and that, in no probable case, would the delay exceed a week.

In consequence of the error, to which I have so frequently called attention, in the law which makes foreign gold coins a tender, there will be some loss on their re-coining; but I think it better that this should be borne, than that foreign coins should be paid out by the government. May I, however, respectfully suggest the propriety of giving special instructions to the Receiver, not to take foreign gold coins except at their true Mint value by weight? The law of 1834 would not be contravened by such instructions, because, in point of fact, the foreign coins in question do not come within its terms as to standard.

The following are the just rates, per Troy

ounce, at which foreign gold coins might be received: British coins, (either of the guinea or sovereign series,) \$18.92; French coins, \$18.57.

Very respectfully,

your faithful servant,

R. M. Patterson,
Director.

To/

Hon. Levi Woodbury,
Secretary of Treasury.

Charge of
of any in substance
thing must not be some
express in transferring them
gold to Philadelphia.
I have much

Also if a step
of this kind is adopted
whether it must not
be by some of making the
Act of the fund to
provide metals for

2.
Said it will be
best to write to
the Chem. Soc.
as to the gold coin
or would tell her
again from the
Director
W

for coming ~
7/10

M

86

88

Mint of the United States,
Sept. 16th, 1840.

Sir,

I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 14th inst, and, in reply to your questions as to the cost of transporting foreign gold coins from New York for recoinage, I have to state, first, that the charge made to brokers & banks, and which would be made to us, for the conveyance of gold between the two cities, each way, is 25 cents per \$1,000, — so that for the sums received and returned, the cost of transportation would be 50 cents per \$1,000. This expense could, I think, with propriety be charged to the Mint, under the law authorizing the purchase of bullion for coinage.

The messenger, whom I would propose to employ is named Jacob Shipman. He is known to us, at the Mint, only by his numerous transactions for Houses in New York, particularly the House of Peesee & Parshall. The extensive trusts, which we know to be reposed in him are an evidence in favor of his fidelity, but it will be proper also to make special inquiries of the Houses and banks, to which he refers.

14 It is essential to state, that we must run the risk of robbery on the road, as do the other employers of this messenger or of any other. —

No case of the kind has yet occurred, however, and Mr. Shipman thinks, that with the constant watchfulness he uses, the danger from this source is very slight.

I hope you will excuse me for again calling your attention to the propriety of issuing instructions to the custom-house officers and other receivers of public moneys, not to take English and French gold coins except at the true mint value as stated in my letter of the 12th. The Philadelphia Collector, Judge Blythe, refuses, I am told, to take Sovereigns except at \$4.80 each, but with a provision, that they may be replaced or redeemed. This is going to the other extreme, and must keep foreign gold coins from the Sub-treasury here. A general order from you would correct the evils of both ~~of~~ over- and undervaluation.

Very respectfully,
Your faithful Serv^t
R. M. Patterson,
Director.

To Hon. Levi Woodbury,
Secretary of the Treasury.

1 Set new gauge
Write to Boston Mfg. Co.
the value of the ~~dist~~
at Phila. carry the true
value of the ~~value~~
W

2 Set Mr. M. K. How anyone before the Senate
How he has been treated
for coming & of any from the
got what appears to be
what appears to be
W

M

(87)

89

Mint of the United States.

Philadelphia. Sep. 16, 1849.

Sir,

Dr. Riddell has finished his visit at Philadelphia, and now sets out on his return to New Orleans, by the way of Washington, where he will see you. His stay at our Mint has, I am sure, been of the greatest importance to him in connection with his official duties at New Orleans, and will be favorably felt in the future operations at the Mint there.

When leave was given to him to make a visit to our institution, it was with the express stipulation that his expenses were to be borne by himself. He can therefore present no claims except on the generosity and sense of justice of the Department. But, on a review

of the whole case, I am disposed to think that there ought to be extended to him. This visit was for the public benefit, by giving him opportunities of acquiring a practical acquaintance with some essential operations which he could not otherwise have obtained. The same opportunity was given to other officers of the Stockholm Mint, — to the Assayer for example, — and their travelling expenses were paid. — In considering this question it should not be forgotten that the salaries of the officers at the Stockholm Mint are very low for so expensive a City.

Very respectfully,

Your faithful servant,

P. M. Patterson,

Director

To
Hon. Levi Woodbury,
Secretary of the Treasury.

M 88

90

Mint of the United States.
Sept. 19th, 1840.

Sir,
I have had the honor to receive your letter of the 10th inst., and, in answer to the queries proposed in it, I have to state that all the bullion hitherto purchased by us for coinage has been delivered at the Mint, and at the just Mint value;—in this remark I include the large purchases under the arrangement made in 1837 with the Bank of America and the Girard Bank. The Mint has never been the carrier of gold or silver at its own cost and risk.

The heavy remittances of gold and silver, made by the Bank of America, were always sent by a messenger attached to that Bank, generally one of the clerks.

I have made particular inquiry as to the course pursued by the banks and brokers here, and find that Mr. Shipman, (the messenger named in my letter of the 16th), is employed by them very generally. My information is from the Girard Bank, and the houses of Borden & Co.

and of Parrhall, Beebee & Co. They say that they and others repose entire confidence in him, and that he has been invariably found trustworthy.

Mess. Parrhall, Beebee & Co offer to undertake the transportation of gold, at a charge of one quarter per cent., with a guarantee for its safe delivery. But as this is ten times the charge made by Mr. Shipman, I should judge it better that the government be its own insurer. Prudence will show the propriety of not sending very large sums at one time.

If you authorize the course proposed, I will enter into correspondence with the Review Journal at New York, and make with him the necessary arrangements for carrying it into execution.

Very respectfully,
Your faithful servant,
R. M. Patterson,
(Director.)

To Hon. Levi Woodbury,
Sec. of Treasury.

M 89 91
Mint of the United States,
Sept. 26, 1840.

Sir,

I have to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 23^d, and after giving to it the fullest consideration, I am unable to devise any plan by which the expense of transporting coins can be avoided, if the very desirable object proposed to be answered by the recoinage is to be attained. My inquiries show, indeed, that none of the transmissions may often be avoided, by a simple transaction with some of the brokers. Thus Parshall, Beebe & Co. told me yesterday that they would now be glad to pay \$30,000, in U. S. gold coins, at New York, for the same amount paid to them here by the Mint, as it would save them the necessity, which they would otherwise be under, of bringing that amount from New York to Philadelphia.

The expense of transportation will be trifling, and I agree with you that it ought to be borne by the Mint, and am quite willing that it should be. I hope, however, that the Collectors will be instructed not to receive foreign gold except at the true Mint value.

Very respectfully, your faithful servant,
N. M. Patterson,
Director.
Hon. Levi Woodbury, }
Secretary of Treasury.

M (90)

92

Mint of the United States,
Sept. 28, 1840.

Sir,

I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 25th inst., communicating the decision of the Comptroller that the requisitions for our Subtreasury must be made by the Treasurer of the Mint.

My interpretation of the second section of the Act of July 4th led me to the conclusion that the Subtreasury established here was to be considered as a new department attached to the Mint, and, of course, that, by the 2^d Sect. of the Act of Jan. 18, 1837, it was placed under "the Control and Management" of the Director, and that the Treasurer of the Mint was in this, as in his other official functions, under the Director's "Superintendence." This view of the matter I thought confirmed by the 13th Sect. of the Subtreasury Act, which seems to give, expressly, the Superintendence believed to be virtually conferred by the Mint Act. The Circulars from your Department also appear to be founded on the same supposition.

The decision of the Comptroller evidently makes the Subtreasury an independent department, and thus shows that I have misunderstood my duties and respon-

abilities with regard to it; and, as I am not at all
ambitious of power, I yield cheerfully. I am only
mortified to reflect that the active agency which I
have already taken in this matter, and the frequent
letters with which I have troubled you with re-
gard to it, must have been considered as an
officious interference in a department at the Mint,
which is not of it, - an imperium in imperio,
with which I have nothing more to do than to
make a monthly count of the specie in the vaults.

I have handed over your letter to the Treas-
urer of the Mint, in order that he may act
in accordance with your instructions.

Very respectfully,

your faithful servant,

D. M. Patterson,
Director.

To/ Hon. Levi Woodbury, }
Secretary of the Treasury.

93
Set this in coming
by Mr. Gage &
the Compt - & see
what is the best
& most correct
construction

W

1842 Oct 11
Gage

93

Mint of the United States,
Oct. 7, 1840.

Sir,

I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 5th inst., enclosing one to you from the Mess. Cohen of Baltimore respecting the valuation of British and French gold coins.

In answer to the inquiry which you make on this subject, I have to state that the valuation, which I recommended, of \$18.92 per oz. for British gold, and \$18.57 per oz. for French gold, should apply to the coinages before as well as since 1835.

As to the remarks made by Mess. Cohen, that in 1835, "by the report of the Director of the Mint, the assay gave results confirming the legal fineness of the coins of the two countries," I will first present the following extracts from Dr. Moore's communication to you of the 31st of December, 1834:

"From the Assayer's ^{report}, it appears that the gold coins of Great Britain are of the fineness of 21 Carats, $3\frac{7}{8}$ grains" [= 915.36 millieèmes]; "those of France 21 Carats, $2\frac{14}{43}$ grains" [= 899.235 millieèmes, the standard of U.S. gold at that time.]

"The result indicates that in the valuation in the act making them a legal tender, they have been estimated above the rates respectively due to their actual fineness. Some loss has thence been incurred on deposits at the Mint, when those coins have been taken by the

depositor at the legal valuation per dw't., and their loss has occasionally, on large sums, been of very sensible amount." --- "The propriety of correcting the legal valuation, so as to render it conformable to the actual fineness of the coins enumerated in the act, is therefore respectfully represented."

"To make the proper correction," --- "the gold coins of Great Britain" --- "should be valued at 94.6 cents per dw't.," [= \$18.92 per oz.] "If however the valuation of those coins were fixed at $94\frac{1}{2}$ cts. per dw't.," [= \$18.90 per oz.] "their consequent tendency to come to the Mint, instead of remaining in the form of foreign coins, might be regarded as advantageous." --- "The value of the gold coins of France may be properly estimated at 93 cents per dw't.," [= \$18.60 per oz.] "If however the valuation of $94\frac{1}{2}$ cents be adopted for the gold coins of Great Britain," --- "the same considerations would suggest that those of France should be stated at 92.9 cents per dw't.," [= \$18.58 per oz.]

After making you this communication on the subject, it seems indeed strange, that only two months afterwards, (Feb. 28, 1835,) Dr. Moore should have reported that assays made at the Mint gave the fineness of the British gold at 22 carats, $\pm 916\frac{2}{3}$ millièmes; and that of the French gold at 21 carats, $2\frac{3}{8}$ grains, = 899.74 millièmes. - As it appears, however, that the assays were made only on a few coins, the variation from the general results may not be so astonishing.

Besides, in the letter to you communicating this tabular report of assays, Dr. Moore makes the following remarks:

"I have to observe respecting the gold coins of Great Britain & France, that the Assays made for this occasion give results more nearly corresponding than our preceding assays with the legal fineness of those coins. It is however to be noted that even these trials evince a tendency below the proper standard, and it has even been doubtful whether 16 th of a carat grain given below the fineness now stated would not have been equally near the average of the Mint trials. Future assays of them which the law requires to be annually made will offer opportunities for approximating more nearly to their precise quality."

Very respectfully,

Your faithful servant,

A. W. Patterson,

Director.

To,

Hon. Levi Woodbury,

Secretary of the Treasury. }

P.S. The letter of the Mess. Cohen is herewith returned.

M 92 94
Mint of the United States,
Oct. 12, 1840.

Sir,

I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 10th inst., in which you ask my attention to Dr. Moore's report of the 24th of March 1834, on the Assay of Foreign Coins. In answer to your letter of the 5th, I confine myself to the period referred to in the letter of Mess. Cohen, to which you asked for the means of replying. You now seem to direct my notice generally to the circumstance that the old Mint reports went to confirm the legal standard fineness of the British & French coins, while those presented more recently have made them both defective by about a thousandth part. As this question belongs to the Department of the Assayers, I have asked from them a statement on the subject, of which I annex a copy to this letter, and which I am sure you will find to be entirely satisfactory.

Very respectfully,

Your faithful servant,

R. M. Patterson,

Director.

To,

Hon. Levi Woodbury, }
Secretary of Treasury.

Eaminghouse
in

Copy of a Statement made by the Assayers of the Mint
to the Director, - Oct. 12, 1840.

In reference to the letter of the Secretary of the Treasury referred to us this morning, the Assayers ask leave to state, that the presentation of British or French gold coins at the Mint, for re-coining, was a thing wholly unknown for at least 20 years previous to the passage of the Gold Bill, in July, 1834. In that month began the unprecedented flow of gold to the Mint, which was kept up for at least three years, and which gave us very large experience in assaying all sorts of foreign coins, especially those of France & Great-Britain. In that same month we commenced reporting British gold coins at $213\frac{3}{4}$ Carats, and French at $213\frac{1}{2}$; which when the Millesimal notation was adopted, (November, 1835,) were changed to 915 $\frac{1}{2}$ and 899 thousandths, respectively, - being the nearest equivalents. The uniformity is as entire, whether in operating upon large masses or small, as not to deviate more than the half of one-thousandth part; and in fact, we have long since adopted the practice of reporting upon them without assay, - trusting to the trial of ingots into which they are cast, to confirm our report.

The following specific cases are taken from the record, as examples, from a vast catalogue:

(Over)

Kind of Coins.	Depositor.	Date.	Weight. Ounces.	Fineness.
British	Grand Bank	Sept. 9. 1834.	2,557.90	21 $\frac{31}{32}$ car.
Do.	Bank U. States	" 12. "	5,677.70	"
French	Do.	" " "	5,111.00	21 $\frac{19}{32}$ "
British	Phoenix Bk. N. Y.	Oct. 9. "	2,623.52	21 $\frac{31}{32}$ "
Do.	Bank of America "	" 30. "	9,472.15	" "
French	Do.	" " "	2,486.05	Standard [†]
Do.	Do.	April 22. 1837.	3,914.29	899. th.
Do	Maxwell & Son	Sept. 2. "	94.35	899. th.
British	Grand Bank	Jan. 5. 1838.	331.95	915 $\frac{1}{2}$ th.
Do.	L. P. Smith, Cash ^r	June 21. "	512.05	915 $\frac{1}{2}$ th.
Do.	Schuykill Bank	July 10. "	822.25	915 $\frac{1}{2}$ th.
Do.	M. Woods, Cash ^r	" 27. "	2,559.00	915 $\frac{1}{2}$ th.
Do	Farmers' & Mech ^s ' Bank	Aug. 21. "	5,274.15	915 $\frac{1}{2}$ th.
Do.	Smithsonian Fund	Sept. 1. "	26,860.27	915 $\frac{1}{2}$ th.
Do.	Prime, Ward, & King	May 22. 1839.	17,223.60	915 $\frac{1}{2}$ th.
French	Do.	" " "	94.30	899 th.
Do.	Do.	Oct. 10. 1840	8,000.00	899 th.

[†]The standard at that date, was 899.225, and the small fraction, (less than a quarter of a millieme,) was disregarded.

M. 93

Mint of the United States,
Oct. 15, 1840.

Sir,

I have the honor to send, herewith,
a statement of the operations of the Branch Mints,
in the month of September. The repairing of machinery,
re., at the New Orleans Branch Mint, rendered necessary
a short suspension. The Superintendent writes, under
date of Oct. 4th, - "We are now ready to recommence
operations, with every thing in complete order."

Very respectfully,

Your faithful servant,
R. M. Patterson,
Director.

To,

Hon. Levi Woodbury, }
Secretary of the Treasury.

94

Dear Sir

I enclose a statement of Mrs
Jane Kneaps, widow and executrix, of
William Kneaps decd, to which your earliest
attention is currently requested by her

Truly Respc Mully

Yrs Obedt Servt

Wm R. Kneaps

~~Atty for Wm R. Kneaps~~
Philadelphia Oct: 12th 1840

Examined if necessary
referred to Compt
for a report W

Wm. Levi Woodbury
Secretary of the
Treasury of the United States

The communication of Mrs Kneaps
sent to Duane to Report on
14th October

M 95

To the Honorable
Levi Woodbury
Secretary of the
Treasury of the United States

I respectfully take occasion as
widow and executrix of William Kneass
late engraver in the Mint of the United
States, to submit to you the following
statement.

William Kneass late engraver
in the Mint at Philadelphia, received
by law a salary of \$1200, up to the
18th day of January A. D. 1837 when
an Act of Congress was approved by
the President of the United States
entitled "An Act Supplementary
to the Act establishing the Mint
and regulating the coin of the
United States" which provided
among other things that the
engraver should receive for his
services the sum of \$2000. per
annum and the Director of the
Mint should appoint, with the
approbation of the President, an
assistant to the engraver with
such a salary as he might think
proper with the proviso contained
in the 7th section of the same
that no assistant should receive
more than \$1500. per annum for

services. After the passage of the said Act Christian Gobrecht was appointed assistant engraver and entered into that situation, in which he continued till the decease of Mr Tineaps, whom he succeeded as engraver. From the time when Mr Gobrecht was appointed assistant engraver up to the quarter ending in June last Mr Tineaps at the request of Dr Robert M. Patterson, handed over to Mr Gobrecht quarterly the sum of $\$62\frac{50}{100}$ making $\$250$, per year or in other words equally divided with Mr Gobrecht the sum of $\$500$. - the excess of Mr Tineaps' legal salary over the legal salary of Mr Gobrecht, thereby taking from his own salary of $\$2000$, to which he was entitled, the sum of $\$250$, per annum and handing that sum to Mr Gobrecht who was not authorized to receive it and whom the said Act of Congress expressly forbade to receive it - for his salary was thus increased from $\$1500$ to $\$1750$.

Extraordinary as it may seem the sum of $\$62\frac{50}{100}$ nevertheless was actually paid every quarter of a year during the period referred to, to Mr Gobrecht by Mr Tineaps who was wrought upon by Dr Patterson the then and present director of the Mint whose request as the highest officer of the Mint

Mr Kneap did not feel himself
at liberty to refuse,

Assured as I am from a
perusal of the Act of Congress re-
ferred to, that Mr Kneap was
not required to hand over any
part of his salary to Mr Gobrecht
and Mr Gobrecht was not author-
ized but on the contrary expressly
forbidden to receive more than
\$1500 per annum for his services
and that the rights of Mr
Kneap have not been respected
as they should have been in this
matter I very respectfully but earnest-
ly solicit your earliest attention
to the facts here disclosed (which
are susceptible of proof) with a
view to the refunding by Mr
Gobrecht of the sum of money
which he has illegally and un-
justly received, to the estate of
my deceased husband

Very respectfully

Jane Kneap

Oct 12th 1848

96
Mint of the United States,
Oct. 17th, 1840.

Sir,

I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 14th inst., enclosing a communication from Mrs. Jane Kneass, widow of the late Engraver of the Mint, and requesting from me a report as to statements made therein. In compliance with this request, I lay before you the following facts.

The original salary of the Engraver of the Mint, which continued until the passage of the Act of Jan. 18, 1837, was \$1200 per Annum.

In September, 1835, (and not after the passage of the Act of 1837 as erroneously stated in Mrs. Kneass's communication,) Mr. Gobrecht was employed as Assistant Engraver, with a salary of \$1500.

In January, 1836, I presented to you, and through you to the Committee of Ways & Means of the House of Representatives, a draught of an Act for the better organization of the Mint, in which the salaries of all the Officers, (except that of Director, which was left in blank,) were set down at \$2000. The bill, with these salaries, was reported to the House, during that session, and became a law on the 18th of January, 1837.

Owing to the feeble health of Mr. Kneass, (who had been attacked with Paralysis in the summer of 1835,) and to other circumstances, the great burden of the duty in the Engraver's Department fell on Mr. Gobrecht, who, up to the passage of the new act, had received the larger salary. On that act going into operation, the circumstances, as to emolument, were reversed; and thereafter Mr. Kneass received, from the government, \$2000, and Mr. Gobrecht \$1500. Such were the payments always actually made by the Treasurer, as his books and vouchers show.

But the injustice of this division, under the circumstances in which they were respectively placed, was felt by Mr. Kneass, to whose personal interests the appointment of Mr. Gobrecht was eminently beneficial, and he voluntarily and cheerfully agreed with Mr. Gobrecht, to pay to him quarterly such a sum, (\$62½,) as would place them on an equality. This was strictly a private arrangement between these two individuals, which I, as a private friend of both, entirely approved. The insinuation that Mr. Kneass was "wrought upon" by me, as his superior officer, to submit to a sacrifice which he would not otherwise have made, I positively assert to be without foundation. I consider the payment made by Mr. Kneass to Mr. Gobrecht as a moderate compensation to him for having, during the whole period

in question, done a great part of Mr. Kneass's just share of the work, and, for a considerable portion of the time, the whole of it.

I will only add that no mystery was ever thrown over this transaction, - that no complaint with regard to it was ever made by Mr. Kneass, so far as is known or believed by any one at the Mint, - and that, during the whole time of their official connection and up to the time of Mr. Kneass's death, he and Mr. Cobrecht were always on terms of cordial friendship and good understanding. X

Very respectfully,

Your faithful servant,

R. M. Patterson,

Director.

(To)

Mr. Levi Woodbury,
Secretary of the Treasury. }

P. S. - Mrs. Kneass's communication to you is returned enclosed.

~~Make out an
opinion on this case
and submit the Dept. - You or
should do - W~~

Wm

(97)

99

Mint of the United States,
Oct. 19th, 1840.

Sir,

I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of ^{your letter of the} the 17th inst., stating your desire to draw from the Mint deposits, \$100,000 in gold, for the expenses of Congress, and making inquiries of me on this subject.

I begin my answer, by presenting the following statement:

At the close of the last month, the amount of gold in the Mint, belonging to the government, was \$101,218 (omitting cents); and it was in the following states:

Gold Bullion with Melters & Refiners	\$ 8,047.
Gold Bullion with Chief Coiner	13,033.
Gold Coins	80,138.

This is our whole gold fund, and to show that it is already inadequate to carry into full effect the system of prompt payments, when the Mint is in full business, I have only to state, that the deposits of gold, since the commencement of the present month, (less than three weeks,) have amounted to \$382,485. Of this amount we have paid \$156,977; & that we now owe to depositors \$225,458, a large part of which, however, is nearly ready for payment. We have, therefore, no gold coin free, to make the

Remittance which you desire, and it is only when we have a very small business that any considerable portion of the public deposits can be free, - as was the case at the close of September. We cannot, therefore, spare gold for Washington at an early day, and I most anxiously hope that it will not be required of us at all. If funds must be taken from our Mint deposits, they can be better spared from the silver fund, which has not been so much reduced, having stood as follows, at the end of September:

Silver Bullion, with Melted & Refined,	\$30,251.
Silver Bullion, with Chief Coiner	41,447.
Silver Coins	230,418.
	<u>\$302,116.</u>

Very respectfully,

Your faithful servant,

R. M. Patterson,

(Director.)

To/

Hon. Levi Woodbury,
Secretary of Treasury. }

From post appears the

~~Order after and inform
that the public
present wants of the
will require that
the new money~~

H. M. Tattersall,
Director.

y. }

~~After the and in view of the
being that the funds
for the present wants of the Ly.
will require that at least
the next 30 days or a longer period~~

~~that I would not demand the Mint deposit unless the
public means appear at the time to require it -
They can always be employed when ever funds
of the Mint deposit
\$200,000 should be ready in gold to be transferred here
than of the next 2000 after - You know~~

That I would not demand the full deposit unless the
public wants applied at this time to require it.
They can depend on being paid when ever funds will
permit

of the first deposit

Stoughton should be ready in gold to be transferred here within
one large transfer than of the next day after - The transfer paper

you will take steps accordingly I ask have been any sum
equal to \$200,000 can be put by us
under transfer - W

mk
and
M 98
100
Minist of the United States,

Oct. 19, 1840.

Sir,

I presume that the statements made in my letter to you of the 12th inst., cannot but be considered conclusive as to the fact that the condition of the law of June 28, 1834, making certain foreign gold coins a legal tender, is not fulfilled, - namely that the gold coins of Great Britain &c. shall be "of not less than ~~twenty~~ two carats fine", and those of France "nine-tenths fine".

19
1840
We learn, however, that British & French gold coins are still received and paid by the U.S. Officers at New York, as if they really came under the terms of the act of '34; and, on Saturday, a deposit of French gold was sent to the Subtreasury at the Mint, by the Collector of the Port, which he had received as if "nine-tenths fine". Gov. Findlay sent it back; but on consultation with me, this morning, he was led to doubt the propriety of his doing so without instructions from you, and has accordingly received the deposit, amounting, I believe, to about \$17,000. Our fear was, that a noise might be made about the government paying at New-York, funds which it refused to receive at Philadelphia.

It is very desirable that this case should be brought to some uniform system, and this, it seems to me, can only be done by your explicit instructions. It is very desirable for the operations of the Mint, and the Credit of our own Coinage, that foreign coins should not be estimated at a higher value than our own, as is now manifestly the case; but if you deem further legislation necessary to bring about this object, we must submit to a further delay. Mr. Beebe, a prominent Bullion broker, who was at the Mint this morning, says it would be greatly to the advantage of the Bullion trade, if foreign gold was no longer admitted as a legal tender at its present over-valuation.

Very respectfully,

Your faithful servant,

P. M. Patterson,
Director.

To/
Hon. Levi Woodbury,
Secretary of Treasury. }

Adm. after
after naming
as soon as
the

...anger ... as a
present over-valuation.

spectfully;

faithful servant,

R. M. Patterson,

Director.

3

After seeing your
answer to the

~~I will
adapt any
further steps in this
subject, which appear
to be proper. - W~~

M (99)

101

Mint of the United States,
Oct. 20, 1840.

Sir,

I take the liberty of transmitting, by the present mail, a box of dies, directed on the inner envelope to the Superintendent of Dahlonega Branch Mint, to be forwarded, as heretofore, under your frank.

Very respectfully,

Your faithful servant,
R. M. Patterson,
(Director.)

To,

Hon. Levi Woodbury, }
Secretary of the Treasury }

Attended to it
by

The box was sent the 22^d October —

M 100 102
Mint of the United States,
Oct. 22, 1840.

Sir,

On the 30th of December 1836, - being then at Washington, - I asked for your Warrant in favor of the Treasurer of the Mint for fifty thousand dollars, under the standing appropriation for the purchase of Copper for Coinage, and this sum was transferred to the Mint accordingly. The Act of Jan. 18, 1837, which followed directly afterwards, put it out of our power to use this fund for the purchase of Copper, and it ought therefore to be returned into the Treasury of the United States. It has, however, been used by us for other expenses of the Mint, instead of our making drafts under the proper appropriations.

It is our wish, now, to replace this amount of \$50,000, out of other appropriations for the Mint, withdrawn; and of these there are \$14,300 of the appropriations for 1839, and \$62,400 of the appropriations for 1840.

I respectfully apply for instructions as to the course which we should pursue in order to make the transfer in question.

Very respectfully,

Edwin Griffin

your faithful servant,

R. M. Patterson,
Director.

21)
Hon. Levi Woodbury,
Secretary of Treasury.

101
Mint of the United States,
Oct. 23^d, 1840.

M. H. S.
Sir,
I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 21st inst., in answer to mine of the 19th, in which you again state that the public wants at this time require that the Mint fund be diminished, and that at least \$100,000 of the public deposits be ready in Gold to be transferred to Washington within the next thirty days.

It is our duty to obey your instructions, if perceived in, and this shall be done faithfully, although the consequence must be to break down entirely, as to gold, the system of prompt payments which has proved so advantageous, - to keep back deposits from the Mint, - to renew the complaints of delay formerly so annoying, and to render necessary the giving of explanations, promises, and excuses, which was still more annoying. Will you pardon me then if I once more earnestly plead with you to spare a part of our gold deposits, which, as I stated in my letter of the 19th, is already reduced to \$101,218.79, while that of silver is \$302,116.82. If you could limit your draft to even \$50,000 in gold, and take the remainder in silver, the advantage to the Mint would be inestimable, since, with great activity, we should still be able to pay promptly,

for depositors that are not very large. I explained to you, on a former occasion, the reasons which make it impossible that a Mint can conduct its operations without having continually on hand a portion of uncoined Bullion. If this does not belong to the government, it must belong to individuals, and the Mint must always be in debt to some one. A single example of our work, selected from many others, will illustrate this necessity. - A hundred thousand dollars worth of gold is deposited at the Mint, - is melted into ingots, and these rolled into strips. From these strips planchets are cut which amount to about three-fifths of the whole in weight, and will make coins to pay \$60,000; and if the Mint have \$40,000 besides, the deposit can be paid. If not, the \$40,000 of clippings, (the part of the strips left after the planchets have been cut out,) must again be melted into ingots, and the strips from these will make \$24,000, and leave \$16,000, which is already less than a regular melt for ingots. This operation repeated, will leave successively uncoined \$6,400, - \$2,560, - \$1,024, - &c. The depositor therefore could not be paid at all without making use of the Bullion brought by some succeeding depositor; and this, I may remark, will be the case with the government deposit, if the whole of be required as you have proposed. - A fund of Bullion remaining with the Mint is thus shown to be an indispensable

instrument in its operations; and it is one which, like the Steam-engine and Coining-press, ought, in all propriety, to be furnished by the government, and not to be borrowed from individuals. Let me then again express my anxious hope that you will not require more than \$50,000 of our gold deposits, and that you will take the remainder in Silver.

Our operations in gold have, for the last four weeks, been very active, — the amount coined, in that time, being about \$400,000. A deposit of \$300,000 made by Prime, Ward, & King has been paid, and we have now on hand, free for your proposed draft, the sum you require of \$20,000, or even \$30,000.

May I suggest to you the propriety of obtaining from us, for the expenses of Congress, a supply of dollars, instead of half-dollars, for that portion of the \$100,000, which I still hope you will take in silver. I send you a specimen of our present Dollar Coinage.

I have delayed answering your communication of the 19th inst., until I can receive a reply to some inquiries which I have made of the Receiver General at New York. I hope to be able to present to you my views on the subject to-morrow.

To,

Very respectfully,

Hon. Levi Woodbury,
Secretary of Treas'y.

your faithful servant,

R. M. Patterson
Director

Acety. 2/4 -

Aclype. aff - I will endeavor to ~~aclype~~ make transp.

per only the \$50,000 in gold - & have one issued

from the \$30,000 - now ready -

The difficulty about the size is ^{mainly} ~~other~~ ^{expense} ~~of~~ in

transporting it so far -

Canst you exchange it for gold? If you can't, an effort must

gold? If you can/will see, an effort must

~~be made to take it instead of gold.~~

either on Drafts or per Transfer - in

order to replace you from the other

enlargements required -

I enclose a check for the ^{new} dollar

which is very beautiful -

Mr Will Buttle
Wheaton

Whean

W.C.
Sir,

M

102

104

Mint of the United States,
Oct. 24th, 1840.

I have considered very maturely the subject referred to me in your letter of the 19th inst., in which you desire me to "suggest, at my earliest convenience, any remedy which may be suitable to propose to the Collectors & Receivers of the Public money, in the interim before the meeting of Congress, to obviate the embarrassments which have arisen", under the Act of 1834 making certain foreign gold coins a legal tender.

The first remedy which occurred to me was, as you already know, that you should issue your instructions to the Collectors of the revenue, not to receive foreign gold coins except at their true Mint value, — for example \$18.92 per ounce for British gold, and \$18.57 for French. Further consideration, however, makes me doubt the legality of this course. It would be virtually establishing a new rate of legal tender, — a power which, I presume, is reserved to Congress.

Of your right to refuse altogether to receive or to pay these coins, on the ground that the conditions of the Act of '34 are not fulfilled, I have little doubt, yet I think, that as Congress will soon be in session, it would be most prudent, at least, to leave even this, which is the true remedy for the evil, to their action.

I have consulted the New York Receiver General, Mr. Allen, and Mess. Prime, Ward, & King, who are extensive dealers in bullion, as to the inconveniences that might occur if government were henceforward to cease to receive and pay foreign gold coins, and they both express the opinion that such a measure would give rise to confusion and complaint, if not founded on a formal and permanent act of Congress.

After a careful view of the whole case, I feel constrained to join in this opinion; and I can, therefore, only respectfully recommend that you should yourself ask the attention of Congress to this matter. My repeated representations with regard to it have failed to produce any action on their part.

Very respectfully,

Your faithful servant,

R. M. Patterson,
(Director.)

To/

Am. Levi Woodbury,
Secretary of Treasury. }

It stands right then
now I believe

Ermi 9 report

W

M

103

105

Mint of the United States,
Nov. 10, 1840.

Sir,

I have the honor to send you herewith my estimates for the expenses of the Mint and its Branches, for 1841.

Accompanying the estimate for the Principal Mint is a statement of the grounds on which it is founded.

In the item of salaries, I have stated that of the Director's Clerk at \$1000, subject to the approbation of the President, for which I now respectfully make application through you. The duties of this place are not less important than those of the other Clerks, and certainly require at least equal qualifications, - yet the salary attached to it is but \$700, while neither of the other Mint Clerks receives less than \$1100. - Even with this small alteration, the whole amount of Mint salaries is reduced \$1200 below that of the last year, - in consequence of the suppression of the place of Assistant Engraver.

In my last estimate, I introduced the sum of \$25,000 for the purchase of a lot of ~~a lot~~ adjoining the Mint, - an appropriation which I had before urged upon the Committee of Ways & Means, in the Session of 1838-9. The condition of the Treasury, and the large sums asked for the Mints, led you to withhold your approval from this appropriation. I am now, though not without re-

get, willing to limit my request to a part only of the lot in question, - the part immediately adjoining the Mint, - and I most earnestly beg, for this object, an appropriation of \$10,000. I have explained the great importance of this acquisition in my former correspondence with you and with the Committee of Ways & Means, when I sent a plot of the ground occupied by and adjacent to the Mint. I will now only add, that, even with the item for the purchase of this lot, the appropriation asked, for 1841, is less by \$8,400, than that granted for 1840.

The estimate for the New Orleans Branch Mint is the same as that granted for the present year. On the 26th of Sept., I wrote to the Superintendent of that Mint, to ask for his estimate to form the basis of that which I was called upon to present to you. My letter has not brought an answer; and, as I cannot consent to delay this communication longer, I am under the necessity of assuming that the expenses for the coming year, will be the same as that for the last.

The estimates for the Branch Mints at Charlotte and at Dahlonega are the same as those forwarded to me by the Superintendents of those Mints.

A copy of the estimates is sent to the Register of the Treasury.

(To) Hon. Levi Woodbury,
Secretary of the Treasury

Very respectfully,
your faithful servant,

Wm. Patterson

Estimates handed by me to
Mr. Barclay 11 Nov. 1840
M^gR.

I do not deem
it proper to
ask for any
more land - or any increase in salary
~~that can be given~~ ^{might supply to} at this time -
As it ~~will~~ ^{will} work too much
like dictating for our
success -
But I am perfectly ready
the Senate should
bring forth questions
before the people
concerning
the

M

(104)

106

Mint of the United States,
Apr. 17, 1840.

Sir,

I have the honor to send herewith a statement of the operations of the Branch Mints in October. My report for September, presented on the 15th ult., was incomplete as respects the deposits at the Dahlonega Mint, owing to the absence of Dr. Fannin. The whole amount of deposits at that Mint, in September, was \$16,873, instead of \$9,855, as reported.

Very respectfully,

your faithful servant,

R. M. Patterson,

(Director)

To/

Hon. Levi Woodbury,
Secretary of Treasury. }

M

105

107

Mint of the United States,
Dec. 1, 1840.

Sir,

I take the liberty of transmitting to you, by the present mail, a box of dies, directed on the inner envelope, to the Superintendent of New-Orleans Branch Mint, - to be forwarded under your frank. Two boxes more will be sent in the same manner by the next two mails.

Very respectfully,
your faithful servant,
R. M. Patterson,
(Director.)

To/

Hon. Levi Woodbury,
Secretary of Treasury. }

McK

M

106

108

Mint of the United States,

Dec. 10, 1840.

~~Charles
retn - Jan
the 10th
affirm W~~

Sir,

We have, at the Mint, the dies of a great part of the medals voted by Congress to the officers who distinguished themselves in the last war, and in the war of the revolution. Frequent applications are made to us for copies of these medals, and it seems to be desirable that such copies should be multiplied, in order to extend more widely the distinction which the medals were intended to confer. I have accordingly made application, (in letters of this date,) to the Secretaries of War and the Navy, for their authority to make use of the dies in our possession, for the purpose of making copies of the medals in bronze or other metal, (not gold,) to be struck by the Chief Coiner, and given by him to persons desiring them, at such moderate charge for the work and materials as I shall approve.

As the Mint is a branch of the Department over which you preside, I respectfully apply for your concurrence, should the Secretaries of War and the Navy give their consent to the application which I have made to them.

~~For the purpose to copy when sent on Mint -~~

Very respectfully,
Hon. Sir Woodbury,
Secretary of the Treasury.

Your faithful servant,
H. M. Patterson
Director

M 107 109
Mint of the United States.

(Dec. 14th, 1840.)

Sir, I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 10th inst., enclosing a bill, presented by Dr. Riddell to the Treasurer of the New Orleans Mint, of \$375, for his "necessary expenses incurred in travelling from New Orleans to Philadelphia and New York and back, in matters relating to that Mint." You ask me to state, "whether, in my opinion, this bill is reasonable in amount."

In reply, I have to state, that, from the enquiries which I have made, I have no doubt that Dr. Riddell's journey and visit to this Mint &c., may have cost him the full sum which he demands; but it was expressly understood between us, when he asked the letter which I wrote to you on the 16th of Sept. last, that the allowance, if made to him at all, should only be for his necessary expenses incurred on the road while actually travelling. I cannot assert that this limitation has been neglected in the claim presented by Dr. Riddell;

last if not, his expenses were certainly extraordinary, — much greater than I had even supposed, they could reach on such a journey.

I would respectfully recommend that the bill be referred back to the Superintendent of the New Orleans Mint, (without whom a warrant it cannot be paid,) and that he be instructed to satisfy himself, from Dr. Riddell's bill of items, and, if he deem it necessary, other sources of information, what were the necessary road expenses incurred on Dr. Riddell's journey, and that, for this amount, he issue his warrant on the Treasury.

The original bill is returned to you enclosed.

Very respectfully,

Your faithful servant,

R. M. Patterson,
(Director.)

To / Hon. Levi Woodbury,
Secretary of the Treasury.

M

108

110

Mint of the United States,
Dec. 14, 1840.

Sir,

I have written to Mr. Wright, as Chairman of the Committee of Finance of the Senate, to ask the attention of that Committee to the evils of the act of June 28th, 1834, fixing the rates at which foreign gold coins shall be a legal tender, and I have again urged the propriety of repealing that act. You are already fully possessed of my views on this subject, and, I believe, agree with me in the course recommended. If so, I hope that you will not withhold your influence in favor of this object.

Since the establishment of the Subtreasury at the Mint, we have received \$ 68,241.52 of British & French gold, on which we have lost \$ 169.01, or $\frac{1}{4}$ th of one per cent.; a loss quite sufficient to prevent such recoinage for individuals and corporations.

Very respectfully,

Your faithful servant,
R. M. Patterson,
(Director.)

To

Mr. Levi Woodbury,
Secretary of Treasury. }

De'
an

M

109

111

Mint of the United States,
Dec. 17th, 1840.

Sir,

I have the honor to send you, herewith,
a statement of the operations of the Branch Mints,
in the month of November.

Very respectfully,

Your faithful servant,

T. M. Patterson,
(Director.)

To

Hon. Levi Woodbury, }
Sec. of Treasury.

M

(110)

Mint of the United States

112

Dec. 18th, 1840.

Sir,

In the estimate for the Mint and its Branches which I had the honor to send you on the 10th ult., I make the following remarks:

"The estimate for the New Orleans Branch Mint is the same as that granted for the present year. On the 26th of Sept., I wrote to the Superintendent of that Mint, to ask for his estimate to form the basis of that which I was called upon to present to you. My letter has not brought an answer; and, as I cannot consent to delay this communication longer, I am under the necessity of assuming that the expense for the coming year will be the same as that for the last."

The whole amount of this estimate was \$52,000; viz:

For Salaries,	\$12,900.
Wages,	22,000.
Contingents,	<u>17,100.</u>
	\$52,000.—

On the 16th of November, I received from New Orleans the estimate for which I had written. Its amount was \$54,000; viz:

Salaries, of Superintendent,	\$ 2500.
Treasurer,	2000.
Assayer,	2000.
Melter & Refiner,	2000.
Coiner,	2000.
Two Clerks,	<u>2400.</u> - \$12,900.
Wages of Workmen, — — — — —	21,000.
Incidental & Contingent Expenses — — — — —	<u>20,100.</u>
	<u>\$54,000.</u>

In reply to the letter giving the above estimate, I informed Mr. Kennedy of that which I had presented; and said, — "If you deem it necessary to amend this estimate so as to correspond with your own, I will, on your so informing me, make application, for this purpose, to the Department. If you can make out with the sum I have asked, I would advise it."

I yesterday received a letter from Mr. Kennedy, of the 14th inst., in which he says: — "I am of opinion that your estimate should be so amended as to make it correspond with ours. Our Coinage for the next year, will, I hope, be very heavy. Should it prove so, the difference in amount between the two [\$2000] will probably be required for [additional] postage."

I comply with my promise to Mr. Kennedy, by laying this communication before you; but at the same time, I cannot avoid expressing my doubts as to the necessity for so large an item of contingent expenses,

especially with a view of providing for a great anticipated wastage. In a note from the Treasurer of the New Orleans Mint to the Superintendent, of which a copy was sent to me, he says: "If the full wastage allowed by law is to be claimed by the Officers of the Mint, the full amount of the estimate which has been sent to the Director of the Mint, will, I think, be required, to cover expenses." I am surprised that it should be deemed possible that the limit of allowance prescribed by law can be reached in the wastage. This cannot happen without great carelessness, or loss from robbery. Our wastage, for the last year, at this Mint, was but about \$3,000, on a coinage of \$3,000,000. - I may add, too, that our estimate for the present year, "for incidental and contingent expenses, including wastage of gold and silver, fuel, materials, stationery, water-rent, and taxes", is \$16,000. The corresponding item which I have asked for the New Orleans Mint is \$17,100, - that which they ask - \$20,100.

Very respectfully,

your faithful servant,

R. M. Patterson
(Director)

(To)

Wm. Levi Woodbury, }
Secretary of Treasury. }

advised Mr. P.
with your signature to new order
according to
I have not seen it
regarding
advised
above
W

To the Honorable

Levi Woodbury

Sec'y of the Treasury

Dr Sir

I enclose the second communica-
-tion of Mr Lane Kneass to which your ~~undivided~~ attention is
earnestly invited.

Very truly I have the honor to be

Yours &c

Wm R. Kneass

Philadelphia Dec: 17th 1840

Sir Mr (102) 112

From the extract referred to it ap-
pears that the Director of the Mint ad-
mits that McKee's paid quarterly to Mr
Cobrecht the sum of \$62 1/2 but alleges that t

To the Hon: Levi Woodbury

Secretary of the Treasury

Sir

M (102) 112

Your letter containing a copy of an extract from the letter of the Director of the Mint has been received and would have been replied to sooner but for circumstances beyond my control.

The correctness of the position which it has pleased the Department to recognise that "private arrangements fairly entered into between the officers of the Government giving a part of the salary of one to the other not conflicting with the discharge of their duties or intrenching upon rights secured by law" I have no disposition to gainsay but in the case to which your attention has been invited there can be no question that the "private arrangement" entered into between Mr Kneass and Mr Gobrecht did intrench and that most seriously upon the rights of the former, I here take occasion to say that it was never intimated that Mr Kneass did not receive from the hands of the Treasurer of the mint the amount of salary pointed out by law for the reverse was known to me and it is believed that the books and vouchers at the mint will show a compliance with the law so far as they can furnish evidence of payment. An appeal to them therefore need not be made especially as the "private arrangement" was not carried into effect till after the quarterly instalments of salary were paid.

From the extract referred to it appears that the Director of the Mint admits that Mr Kneass paid quarterly to Mr Gobrecht the sum of \$62½ but alleges that

the former cheerfully and voluntarily agreed to do so. This allegation I am prepared to prove is inconsistent with the actual impression upon Mr Kneaps' mind as it was imparted by him to several other gentlemen ~~and utterly at variance with a statement~~ made by the Director of the Mint himself on the day immediately following the night of Mr Kneaps' decease who a short while before his death spoke of the matter to his son Samuel H. Kneaps and to others and the Director of the Mint on the day immediately succeeding the night of Mr Kneaps' death stated to H. R. Kneaps Esq. that under the old law by some mistake or other the salary of the Engraver was less than that of the Assistant Engraver and that he (the Director) had told to Mr William Kneaps that he (the Director) would recommend an increase of his Mr William Kneaps' salary to \$2000. provided he (Mr William Kneaps) would agree to divide with Mr Gobuck the difference between that amount and the salary of Mr Gobuck - the Director denying that dividing the difference was a piece of generosity on the part of Mr Kneaps. This can be distinctly testified to by the gentlemen just named if required.

I hope I may be permitted to say that if Mr Kneaps had been disqualified from attending to his duties as engraver owing to sickness or any other cause that fact should have been communicated by the Director to the department in the life time of Mr Kneaps and the proper action on the subject

would doubtless have been ~~had~~^{had}, Then the truth of the representation could have been fully sifted as it should have been and all the facts developed and then the Director would have been acting within the legitimate limits of his ~~own~~^{own} limits which it is presumed he has no power either to extend or contract. As the officer having "the Superintendence of the officers and persons employed in the mint" it was imperative upon him (if what he represents in the extract referred to be true) to have communicated the alleged fact of Mr Kneass's inefficiency to the Department or the President and from the circumstances of his never having done so in the life-time of Mr Kneass the inference is irresistible either that the alleged inefficiency rests upon no foundation or that he has been derelict in duty in a manner in keeping with the negation of agency in bringing about the "private arrangement".

That Mr Kneass had been struck with paralysis in the summer of 1835 is admitted so also is it that for several weeks thereafter he was unable to leave his home but it cannot with truth be said that anterior to that attack and subsequent with the exception of the several weeks just mentioned and the period of his last illness, the ^{great} burden of duty in the Engraver's department fell upon Mr Gobrecht and such a charge is believed to be utterly insusceptible of any thing like proof. Mr Kneass from the time of his appointment down to the period of Mr Gobrecht's appointment

discharged single handed the onerous duties of the Engravers' department at least in a satisfactory manner and received a salary of, I think, 17/1 \$1200, and if disease did paralyze his arm still it was of short duration and could not have interfered with the performance of his duties longer than a few weeks, since when down to the period of his last illness, his strength was such as to enable him without harm or debility to employ himself at engraver's work nightly to a very late hour. If he had been remiss in the branch of duty in which he was employed there no doubt are satisfactory means of its ascertainment in the custody of the Director who might well be challenged to prove that the amount of labor done by Mr Gobrecht even equalled that performed by Mr Kneass who was not obliged to devote nearly a year to the acquisition of the art after his appointment as I have been informed his assistant was,

It is asserted by the Director that the amount Mr Gobrecht received from Mr Kneass was "but a moderate compensation to him for having during the whole period in question done a great part of Mr Kneass' just share of the work and for a considerable portion of the time the whole of it, what is meant by "the period in question" I am at a loss to conjecture, If he means from the year 1835 it surely comes with an ill grace from a superior officer who is expected to see that the various duties with which the other officers are charged are properly attended to and who after the death

of the person whose rights he has sorely and gravously invaded, seeks to shelter himself in the supposed oblivion of the facts which in their development must stamp him with the palpable agency referred to and the ~~proceedments of the "private arrangement"~~ The money referred to being in the language of the Director a "compensation" and as such by him regarded and expressed, I submit to you respectfully whether by his own showing and admission as the individual allowed by law to fix, with the approbation of the President of the United States, the compensation of the assistant which in no case shall exceed the sum of \$1500, he has not permitted Mr Gobrecht to receive a larger sum than the law has fixed and connived at and been privy to an infraction of the law. If the law prescribed the maximum of compensation to an assistant as it surely does and the Director allowed it to be still further increased have not both violated the law - the former in receiving & the latter in allowing it as a "compensation" for alleged services,

That Mr Kneass was induced and wrought upon by the Director of the Mint to divide annually the \$500, with Mr Gobrecht is indisputable, The condition precedent to his (the Director's) recommendation of an increase of Mr Kneass' salary which under the old law was insufficient viz the agreement to divide the \$500. was arbitrary and unjust, exceedingly offensive to him on whom they were imposed and surely not proper to be

recognised in principle. Mr Kneass must have been either worthy or unworthy of the increase of salary - if the former why was he required to divide any portion of it with his assistant and if the latter why was he used as an instrument in the hands of the Director to enlarge the salary of the assistant beyond the legal bounds and in direct contempt of the positive statute. If the necessity of dividing a part of a salary can be imposed by a superior officer upon an inferior one might not all subordinate officers, upon the same ground, be subjected to a taxation of their salaries to swell that of the superior. The influence of a superior officer I do not desire to comment on but I do wish to say that the power of recommending to supervisory authority and the general superintendence when united in any one individual as a Director of operations, in most instances among those engaged in such operations, give to a request the potency of a command and ensure a compliance when the wish is only hinted. For the same reason is it that whim and caprice are too frequently indulged, at all costs rarely rebuked and oppression while tolerable submitted to.

In conclusion I take leave to invoke as I have already done in my previous letter your authority to compel the restoration of the money which my deceased husband was forced to give and which Mr Gobrecht had no right to receive. Very respectfully I have the honor to be

Jane Sineas

M

113

1/5

Mint of the United States,
Dec. 19, 1840.

Sir,

I take the liberty of sending you, by the present mail, a box of dies, addressed on the inner envelope to the Superintendent of New Orleans Branch Mint, - to be forwarded under your frank, as usual. We shall send a second box on Monday. These are dies for 1841.

Very respectfully,
your faithful servant,
R. M. Patterson,
(Director.)

To/

Hon. Levi Woodbury, }
Secretary of Treasury }

attn to co
11

114

116

Mont of the United States,
Dec. 31st, 1840

iv,

Genl Wm
Pm Linn
Genl K
superior
the

I duly received the letter to you, from Mrs. Jane Kneass, without date, which you sent to me, with a request that I would present to you "any further views and remarks," upon the subject that "I might think proper." I reply that my letter of Oct. 17th, which presents a true statement of the case, leaves me little now to say. There are, however, one or two remarks introduced into Mrs. Kneass's letter that may require some reply on my part.

The first is as to Mr. H. R. Kneass's recollection of a conversation which I held with him, in the house of his uncle, soon after his death. He says I stated that "under the old law, by some mistake or other, the salary of the Engraver was less than that of the Assistant Engraver." This assertion would be so contrary to facts with which I was perfectly familiar, that I think it will be acknowledged more probable that Mr. Kneass's recollection is incorrect, than that I can have used the language ascribed to me. The same ground may be taken to show the inaccuracy of Mr. Kneass's recollections as to the remainder of the conversation in question. The equalizing of the salaries of the two Engravers, while it was an act of justice on the part of the late Mr. Kneass,

was also an act of generosity, and it was in reference to this latter view, and in commendation of it, that I made my remarks to his nephew.

Mrs. Knass says she has been informed that the Assistant Engraver, (Mr. Gobrecht,) was obliged to devote nearly a year to the acquisition of the art, after his appointment. This insinuation may serve as an example of the accuracy of the information which Mrs. Knass has received with regard to the affairs of the Mint. Seventeen years ago, when the Mint was left temporarily without an Engraver by the death of Mr. Scott, Mr. Gobrecht was employed by the Director to make the dies, and did so to the entire satisfaction of the Chief-Coiner, Mr. Eckfeldt. — I send you, by the present mail, two medals executed by him long before he came into the Mint, — one of C^oroll, the other of Franklin. You will judge whether the artist who did these works had his business to learn. — On coming into office, Mr. Gobrecht was principally employed in making new dies, — but he also did much of the ordinary and far easier work of the Engraver's department; work which is now, by the improvements in transferring introduced by Mr. Peale, made almost entirely mechanical.

On the complaint, made by Mr. Knass's widow, that I did not, during her husband's illnesses, report him to the Department as unable to perform the duties of his office, and on the aug-

language which she is made to use with regard
to me, - I have no observations to offer.

Very respectfully,

your faithful servant,

R. M. Patterson,
(Director.)

To /

Hon. Levi Woodbury,
Secretary of the Treasury. }

P. S. - Send back, enclosed, Mrs. Kneass's
communication.

M.

115

117

Mint of the United States.

Dec. 28th, 1841.

Sir,

The enclosed letter, of the 26th, was detained, in consequence of an error committed in a post-script, which I have now suppressed. It regarded the recoinage of Subsidiary deposits at the New Orleans Mint. I will now state, that a report, on this matter, made at my request, presents the whole amount of recoinage at \$118,188.97 of deposits, producing \$118,003.43 in our Coins. Of the deposits, \$17,709.34 were in gold, and \$100,479.63 in silver. The principal loss is in the recoinage of Spanish and Mexican half and quarter dollars, which are much below the standard weight.

Very respectfully,

Your faithful servant

R. M. Patterson,

Director.

To

Hon. Levi Woodbury,
Secretary of the Treasury

Jan 2
1842

M

116

118

Mint of the United States

Dec. 26. 1840.

Sir,

I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 22'd inst., in which you state that it has been suggested to the Department whether it would not be proper to furnish the New Orleans Mint with Eagle dies. As this is the second time that this suggestion has been made, I must suppose that there is some particular desire to have this variety of gold coins struck at New Orleans, and I have accordingly ordered a pair of dies to be immediately prepared. It has appeared to me, however, that the smaller denominations were better suited to the amount of the deposits at this Mint, and that the trouble and expense of making the fixtures for the Eagle ought to be avoided. The whole amount of gold deposits in 1839 was but \$88,907; and in the eleven months which have elapsed of the present year, the amount is but \$239,927. These are ~~very~~ small sums, and have, as I think properly, been coined into half and quarter eagles. — Still I can have no possible objection to furnish Eagle dies, and the Superintendent, in consultation with the depositories, will then have a full choice as to the denominations to be coined. — If Congress would repeal the law making foreign gold coins a legal tender on terms which keep them from recoinage, the operations of the New Orleans Mint, in this metal,

might make the striking of Eagles desirable.

In the conclusion of your letter you ask me "to urge upon the Officers of the New Orleans Branch ~~the~~ the necessity of great industry and activity in the coming year."— I shall be happy to communicate your desires in this matter, in which I join; but I would, I think, be doing injustice to those officers, were I to allow it to be inferred that their business has been neglected. I have before me the reports for the present year, up to the beginning of December. The amount of deposits was \$741,023, and that of Coinage \$813,600.— No remark is necessary on this statement: All the deposits have been coined, and the deficiencies of the last year, caused by death of officers and men, repaired. If this Mint has not answered the expectations of some of its most sanguine advocates, the fault lies in the small amount of the deposits, over which the Officers have no control.

Very respectfully,

your faithful servant,

R. M. Patterson,

(Director.)

To/

Hon. Levi Woodbury,
Secretary of Treasury. }

Examined & expressed
satisfaction as to
contents - W

M. (117)

119

Mint of the United States,
Dec. 30, 1840.

Sir,

I take the liberty of sending to you,
by the present mail, two boxes of dies, directed on the
inner envelopes, — one to the Superintendent of Charlotte
Branch Mint, and the other to the Superintendent of
Savannah Branch Mint, — to be forwarded under
your frank, as usual.

Very respectfully,

Your faithful servant,

P. M. Patterson,
Director.

To/

Hon. Levi Woodbury,

Secretary of the Treasury. }

M

118

120

Mint of the United States.
Dec. 31st, 1840.

Sir,

Your letter of the 28th inst., making inquiries respecting certain anomalies observed in the market-prices of Portuguese and Old American gold coins, was referred by me to our essayers, for information; and I now take the liberty of sending this note to you enclosed, as the most satisfactory reply which it is in our power, at the Mint, to make to your inquiries.

Very respectfully,

Your faithful servant,
D. W. Patterson;
Director.

To
Wm. Levi Woodbury,
Secretary of the Treasury.

Copy 119 Thine 121

Assayer's Office,
(Dec. 31st. 1840.)

The Assayer of the Mint begs leave to offer the following remarks, to the Director, in reference to the inquiries of the Hon. Secretary of the Treasury, upon the subject of the gold coins of the United States (of standard,) and Portuguese coins.

It will be noticed, on comparing the discrepancies of the quotations, as stated by the Secretary, that there is no difficulty in regard to the American coin, considered by itself. The premiums, both in New York and Philadelphia, keep tolerable pace with each other, year by year. It is only in the Portuguese money, that the inconsistency of prices appears; although to exhibit this in a more striking view, it was certainly a well chosen comparison, to place by its side our own coin, with which, as of the same declared standard of fineness, it ought to tally.

After careful consideration, there does not appear any method of explaining the difficulty within the compass of the Mint. There has been no change in the fineness of Portuguese gold coins, for more than a century past. They are, in effect, the same as our

early gold coins; which, after numerous trials, we are sorry to say, fall short of the actual standard, by about $2\frac{1}{2}$ millimeters, or one-fourth of one per cent. The difference, it is true, is trivial, and, as it respects our own moneys, ought to be charged to the inferior means of precision, in the earlier days of our Mint. It is, nevertheless, greater than the remedy now allowed by law, and much greater than could be allowed in the present state of our operations.

The inquiry, then, is one which lies entirely within the province of dealers in Exchange. The fluctuations in that branch of trade seem capricious enough, and are quickly felt at the mint. At one time, Mexican dollars pour in upon us, and in a short time after, they can only be had, as it were, by the handful; and that chiefly to supply the exigency of small coins. As another instance, we may notice the doubloons; those bearing the royal effigy very seldom come to the Mint; those of the patriot sort are less scarce, yet in general, not abundant; but owing to some unknown turn in trade, we received in the first half of 1838, near \$300,000 of them; and since that time, comparatively very few.

There are several circumstances which may throw some light upon the present question. The Joanes (Portugal) coinage can hardly be said to belong to the nineteenth century; most of the pieces to be seen, bear an earlier date than 1800, and we have no knowledge of later than 1826. Consequently they must be getting very

scarce, and of less and less consequence, every year; as must be also said of our former coinage. We receive very few of the half-joes for re-coinage; the last large deposit, of which we are aware, was in May 1839.

Another fact, particularly to be noted, is, that there are various kinds of Portuguese coin besides those issued from the Mint at Lisbon. In former years, it was an undisguised trade in this city, to coin half-joes for the West India market. The counterfeits, besides being fac-similes of the true coin, have the unusual property of maintaining a fineness not greatly below the proper standard; though in weight, they are very variable, and very inferior. We once separated a considerable parcel as well as we could, into three lots; genuine, doubtful, and Spurious. The first being melted down and Assayed, proved to be 914 fine, the second 906, and the third, 887.

Another parcel, stamped 20 (supposed 20 Carats,) varying in weight in the strangest manner, yet not easily distinguishable by the eye in that respect, (nor indeed in any other,) resulted 901 thousandths fine; which proved, first, that the pieces were Spurious; and secondly that the stamp on them was an undervaluation; 20 Carats being only 833 thousandths.

It is chiefly by the variation & diminution of weight, that the false pieces are to be distinguished; and yet, it is very common to see the genuine coin so reduced by filing, as to bring it within the range of the false weights,

and so render it suspicious.

Another practice, (doubtless employed in the West Indies,) is to plug these pieces; that is, to bore a large hole in the centre, and insert a heavy plug of gold, to bring up ^{to} the weight; an object which it does not always accomplish. Some of these plugs were taken out and assayed; they were 902 th fine.

In conclusion, we can only suggest, that the great scarcity, and the uncertain character of these coins, coupled with an occasional demand for them on a special emergency, may go far to account for the discrepancy noticed by the Secretary.

In 1835, a new gold coinage was projected by law, in Portugal, by which the Ioanese system was displaced, and a Corôa, of 5000 reis, equal to $\frac{2}{3}$ of the half-joe, was substituted. But gold coins, whether old or new, are very scarce in that country, and being always at a premium, form no part of the currency by tale. As late as 1834, it was lawful to pay any debt in the proportion of one half government paper, one third silver, and one sixth copper.

M 6/20 122
U. S. Branch Mint
New Orleans Jan^y 21, 1840

Sir,

I have by this day's mail forwarded to
the Director of the Mint at Philadelphia,
under cover to you, a package containing the
assay coin, reserved from deliveries made at
this Mint during the last month. You
will oblige me by transmitting the same
to Dr. Patterson.

Respectfully
Y^r obed^t Serv^t
J. M. Kennedy
Sup^t

Adj. Exp^t
Hon^{ble} Sec^y W. Woodbury
Sec^y of the Treas^y

M

121

123

Washington city Feby 6th 1840

To his Excellency

Martin Van Buren Sir

Allow me to call your

attention to that part of the report of the Director
of the mint, which applies to the Branch at
New Orleans.

Yours Obedt. Servant

A. Newton

Refer to
me here to request
to get nearer to
the

W

45 Jan
1840

MESSAGE

FROM

THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES,

COMMUNICATING

A report from the director of the Mint, showing the operations of that institution during the year 1839.

FEBRUARY 3, 1840.

Referred to the Committee on Finance, and ordered to be printed.

To the Senate of the United States :

I transmit herewith to the Senate, a report from the director of the mint, showing the operations of that institution for the year 1839.

M. VAN BUREN.

WASHINGTON, February 1, 1840.

MINT OF THE UNITED STATES,
Philadelphia, January 30, 1840.

SIR: In compliance with the law which requires that "in the month of January, of every year, the director shall make report to the President of the United States of the operations of the mint and its branches for the year preceding," I have the honor to submit to you the following statements:

The coinage executed at this mint in 1839, amounted to \$3,021,170 11, comprising \$1,040,747 50 in gold, \$1,949,136 in silver, and \$31,286 61 in copper, and composed of 9,260,345 pieces. (Statement A.)

The deposits of gold within the year amounted to \$1,042,500, of which \$138,500 was derived from the mines of the United States. (Statements B and C.)

The deposits of silver amounted to \$1,851,500, and consisted principally of Mexican dollars. (Statement D.)

At the close of the year, the public funds in our vaults under the laws authorizing deposits with the mint, for the purchase of metals for coinage, and for securing prompt payments to depositors, amounted to \$516,697 04, in gold and silver. The amount withdrawn during the year, on Treasury drafts, was \$648,730 58, and the amount added \$33,000.

The coinage at the New Orleans branch mint, up to the 17th of August, when operations were suspended, amounted to \$227,160 in silver, composed of 2,401,600 pieces of coin. (Statement E.) The deposits for coinage, during the same period, amounted to \$35,159 in gold, and \$173,991 in silver. (Statement F.)

I have to regret that after keeping back this annual report to the last day allowed by the law, in the expectation of obtaining from the New Orleans

Blair & Rives, printers,

Feb. 27. 1840.

communication
re that
affluent
but I
the day
it at
at had
the
his
haley
can
was,
to send
P.O.
New York.

mint the information necessary to enable me to include its operations to the close of the year, this information has not been received, and that my report, so far as it regards this branch, is therefore necessarily incomplete. I may state, however, that the amount of the deposits and coinage, thus left unreported, must be inconsiderable.

The efficiency of this branch of the mint has been greatly reduced during the year, by causes which are deeply to be deplored. First, disagreements arose among the officers, which ended in mutual denunciations, and rendered an investigation necessary as to the characters of those implicated, and the state of the institution generally. The task was committed to the United States district attorney at New Orleans, and was executed with ability and impartiality. The result showed, that although there was no reason for suspecting the integrity of any of the officers, the condition of things at the mint was such as to require painful measures of reform, which the Government did not hesitate to apply. Scarcely was this investigation ended, before the fatal epidemic, to which New Orleans is subject, made its appearance at the mint, and rendered an entire suspension of its operations absolutely necessary. The melter and refiner, and the coiner, both officers of great merit, fell at their posts, victims to the disease; and four of the workmen also lost their lives, while scarcely one escaped without an attack.

Under these circumstances, it cannot be matter of surprise that so little has yet been accomplished at the New Orleans mint. The prospects for the future, however, are more cheering. The institution has now an able corps of officers, all of whom are acclimated, as are also nearly all the workmen. There is reason therefore to believe that the operations of the mint may go on without further interruption, and that the just expectations of the public with regard to it may be no longer disappointed.

The branch mint at Charlotte received, during the year, deposits of gold to the value of \$126,836. The amount of its coinage was \$162,767 50, composed of 23,467 half eagles, and 18,173 quarter-eagles. (Statements E and F.)

The branch mint at Dahlonega received, during the year, deposits of gold to the value of \$113,035; and its coinage amounted to \$128,880, composed of 18,930 half eagles, and 13,674 quarter-eagles. (Statements E and F.)

These two mints, established for the exclusive coinage of gold, are in a very satisfactory condition, and are fully able to execute much more work than has yet been required of them.

In my last annual report, I took the liberty of calling your attention to the fact, that the law of June 28, 1834, gave too high a valuation to foreign gold coins, so as to lead the community into error with regard to them, and to prevent, in a great measure, their recoinage. As the capacity of the mint and its branches is now abundantly sufficient for all the gold coinage necessary for the metallic circulation of the country, the reasons which led to the act making foreign gold coins a legal tender are presumed to be removed, and as moreover the conditions of this tender are certainly erroneous, I would again express my hope that the attention of Congress may be directed to the subject, and would respectfully recommend that the act in question be repealed.

I have the honor to be, sir, with great respect, your faithful servant,

R. M. PATTERSON,

Director of the Mint.

To the PRESIDENT of the United States.

Senate Chamber, July. 27. 1840.

Dear Sir,

I thank you for the communication
of Patterson's letter, and suppose that
reason given must stand for a sufficient
one in the deficient courage in Decatur; but I
read with astonishment that, on the 24th day
of January, the Director of the Mint at
Philadelphia did not know what had
become of the courage at N. O. for the
month of January. This astonishes
me. I thought he had weekly
reports; nor can I see how he can
discharge his duties, or we ours,
without such reports.

Yours truly,

Thomas H. Benton.

Senate chamber, April 13. 1840.

Dear Sir,

I have reason to believe that the branch
mint at New Orleans has done something better
during the month of March than heretofore;
that it has coined about \$100,000; but that is
but little more than the one third of the capacity of
that mint. I hope that the chapter of queries is
exhausted, and that we are going to see what the
mint can do. As yet I have seen no quarter
dollars mentioned from that mint. Can you
do me the favour to enquire whether they have
dies & a press for that coin? and if so, when
they received them? and what is the reason they
do not work? also whether they work
but one press at a time? and if so, why
not work two or three? also, whether they
have the dies for the eagle? Dr
Patterson, I presume can answer all

these questions; and I prefer to get the
answers through you, without the
formality of a call through the
Senate.

That branch Mint at N. O. was
one of my pet children. It has
disappointed me sadly thus far;
we have had excuses for three
years, and I want no more of them.
I now want to see a coinage at the
rate of \$3,000,000 per annum.

Yours truly,

Thomas M. Benton.

Hon. Mr. Woodbury,

Sec. of the Treasury.

124
New Orleans 19th April 1840

Sir

The Bearer herof, Mr Felix Connolly goes on to Washington for the express purpose of attending in person to the adjustment of the accounts of Messrs Mitchell & Fox, who were the Contractors for building a Branch of the Canal of the United States in this City, erected under my Superintendence -

The Balance due them on account, is for extra work, and materials furnished, which became indispensable in consequence of alterations made in the plan, by the Director of the Canal in Phil^a, after the Contract had been made and the Edifice more than half completed.

I have carefully examined their accounts, approved of them, and gave an order on the then Superintendent for the payment, which after a considerable delay on his part, it was found that the Contingent fund appropriated by Congress to that special object had been expended, in what manner, and by what authority it was done, will doubtless appear from his accounts -

The Contractors have already laid out of their money for Twelve months and upwards, which being patiently laid upon them at these pressing times, it has already occasioned them considerable embarrassment - Therefore permit me, my Dear Sir, to solicit your friendly interposition in their favor, with a view to the final adjustment of their claims,

they have indeed a very strong claim on the Administration,
if a uniform, firm and constant support of it can
give ^{small} any, they only require, however, such only, as ~~is~~
is founded on equity and justice, and they confidently
look to you for that —

I am apprised, if there be no funds appro-
" pointed for that object, that application must be made
to Congress, before it can be paid out of the Treasury — if
after having examined their accounts, and you should find
them perfectly just and correct, I am persuaded you will
include the amount due, in the first application made
to Congress for similar purposes —

In regard to my own account, which has long
since been adjusted at the Treasury, and a balance
stated to be due me of \$3275.13 I presume is in
a like situation, not paid, for the want of an
appropriation, otherwise — I cannot account for the
amount not having been remitted me, in compliance
with my request —

I have the honor to be, Sir

Your Obedt Servant

Washington, June

To

The Honorable

Levi Woodbury
Secretary of the Treasury
Washington

Respectfully to

Wm. A. Lincoln for

your & represent-
L. W.

125
127
United States Branch Mint
New Orleans, 28th April 1840

Sir

I had the honor to receive in due course your esteemed letter of 17th ultimo, and the Draft for \$10,000 mentioned therein, was also received from the Treasurer of the United States. The sum of \$10,000 was sufficient for the expenses of last quarter, and there was a balance on the 31st March in my hands of \$6295.74. I asked for a larger sum, so as to be in funds for the expenses of this and the next month, for you are aware, that though our accounts are rendered quarterly, most of the disbursements are made at the close of the respective months.

On the 16th instant, I forwarded to you two packages containing the Bullion Accounts, showing the operations of this Mint, during the first quarter of this year, and the accounts of the ordinary expenditures. I trust they may arrive safe, and on examination be found correct.

I am with great respect
Yours vob. Servt.
W. C. Cammack
Treasurer

Hon. Sir Woodbury
Secy of the Treasury

Alm. to this
6

1
126
U. S. Branch Mint 120
N. Orleans June 9th 1840
128

Hon^{ble} Levi Woodbury
Sec^y of the Treas^y.

Sir,

I have the honor to enclose a document exhibiting the situation of our Branch Mint, and to call your attention to that part of it, which relates to the Government Deposits.

In 1838, and '39, before this Mint commenced the coinage of gold, the portion in silver of that fund, was, by the payment in silver coin, to depositors of gold Bullion, reduced to the sum of \$50,195.09.

I submit to you whether this amount is not too small to admit of our making payments, with that regularity and promptness which can ~~secure~~ secure heavy deposits for silver coinage. We are now but for two silver deposits made previous to the 1st of this month, and three small ones only have been made since.

I therefore suggest to you the propriety
of adding to the U. S. ^{silver} deposits in the Branch
Mint, from One hundred, to One hundred and fifty
thousand Dollars. This increase would have
the effect, not only of insuring that promptness
in our payments, which is so very desirable
and of inspiring additional confidence in the
Institution, but also, no doubt, of inducing
larger importations of Bullion, and enabling
the Mint, to come, in the annual coinage,
much nearer to the expectations of its
friends. These expectations cannot

I fear, be fully realized with our present
complement of men. The capacity of
this establishment is put down by Mr.
Benton at \$3,000,000 per annum. If I
am correctly informed this amount is not ex-
ceeded in the Philadelphia Mint, with the ad-
vantages resulting from a Government
of \$500,000, and an allowance of between
fifty and sixty workmen. Our
public deposits, in, as you know

little over one fifth of that amount, and our
number of workmen is limited to twenty!

I have the honor to be
very respectfully,

Yours obed. Serv^t

J. M. Kames,
Esq.

"I have then about
account to send
night"

large sphere of influence
which would afford
our great pleasure
to increase the
deficit there

second the
state of
the
limit is
be

M 127 129
 Situation of the United States Branch Mint, New Orleans
May 30th 1840

Available funds of the mint

In possession of the Coiner in Gold	\$ 37,071.99	
ditto " do in Silver	<u>23,177.96</u>	\$ 60,249.95
ditto " Minter & Refiner in Gold	39,357.30	
ditto " do in Silver	<u>53,457.80</u>	92,815.10
Gold Coins on hand		529.28
Silver Coins on hand		50327.21
Amount due by E. Forstall late Treasurer		<u>2342.16</u>
		<u>206,263.70</u>

Liabilities of the mint

Sold Bull. ⁿ acct. - due to the Treasurer by this a/c	\$ 52.72
Silver Bull. ⁿ acct. due to the Treasurer by this a/c	49.11
U. States Deposits Acc. ^t balance of this a/c	122,400.00
Profit & Loss, balance of this a/c	3,845.33
Treasurer of the U. States, Special deposits	1,700.00
Amount due to sundry persons for deposits of Gold	4,700.94
Amount due to sundry persons for do - Silver	<u>73,515.60</u>
	<u>\$ 206,263.70</u>

Due the United States 124.100
 $\frac{122.400.00}{1.700}$
 of which there is in Gold \$ 72,204.91
 in Silver 50,195.09 \$ 122,400.00

United States Branch Mint, New Orleans

Treasurer's Office May 30th 1840

A. C. Crammatt Treasurer

19,000
122,400
- 7,600

M

128

130

Branch Mint New Orleans

June 13th 1840.

Wm. Levi Woodbury
Secretary of the Treasury

Sir,

That injustice may not be done to myself, I feel it incumbent on me to address you at this time.

For some weeks past no gold has been coined in this mint. The last three melts of Gold ingots have been cracked in the coining department in rolling:— and yet by proper annealing I found no difficulty myself in rolling successfully, samples from each melt. Knowing, and being now able to establish, that the ingots have all been of good quality, I have made a written request through our Superintendent, to be permitted to use for an hour the annealing furnace and gold rollers in the coining department, that I may so far prepare the gold ingots of the next melt, by partial rolling before delivery to the coiner, as to preclude the possibility of their being cracked in subsequent operations, pledging myself to send you my resignation, if I fail in rolling the ingots well. The coiner declines my request.

The matter in its commencement was submitted to Dr. Patterson, whose reply we wait, and whose decision I hope will remove all difficulties.

I should have been loath to trouble you thus, were I not well assured that secret efforts are being made to prejudice my standing with the Government. The inclosed certificate, with the remarks preceding it, cut from one of our city papers, will give you an idea of some of the groundless measures taken against me. Conscious that I have well and faithfully performed my duties, I have but this single request to make;—that if complaints seemingly worthy of your attention, be proffered against me, I may not be condemned unheard, nor without due inquiry. Pardon me for adding that my time for twelve years past has been almost ^{exclusively} devoted to Chemistry and the Natural Sciences.

In 1836 I was employed to make a geological reconnoissance of Ohio. — For a while I held a professorship in the Cincinnati Medical College; and for four years past, have been professor of Chemistry in the Medical College of Louisiana. For my standing and ability, I can, among many, call the following men to vouch:—

My old preceptor Prof. Amos Eaton, Troy, New York;
Prof. B. Silliman, New Haven, — Prof. John Torrey, New York

Prof. J. B. Rogers, & Prof. Aikin, Baltimore.
 Dr. S. G. Morton, Philadelphia; - Dr. S. P. Hildreth,
 Marietta, Ohio; - Dr. Daniel Drake, & Prof.
 C. W. Short, Louisville, Kentucky: - with most
 of whom I now maintain a correspondence.

Very Respectfully
 Your Obedient
 Servant
J. L. Riddell.

Melter & Refiner.

COMMUNICATED.

Two editorial communications have appeared in the Sun, casting suspicions on the integrity of the smelter and refiner in the mint, and promising that an investigation about to be instituted, will soon be made known. The higher officers in the mint have never entertained or expressed the least doubt of the integrity of the smelter and refiner, and the only investigation proposed was volunteered by himself, to silence the false reports raised by the misrepresentations of an individual who was lately in his employ as a laborer. Here is a copy of the Treasurer's report:

Treasurer's Office, United States Branch Mint, }
 New Orleans, May 31, 1840. }
 Be it known, that I have this day, at the request Dr. J. L. Riddell, smelter and refiner of this mint, (and in the presence of J. M. Kennedy, Esq. Superintendent,) examined the contents of his vaults; I have weighed the bullion, as far as it is susceptible of being weighed, and have estimated the balance, and am satisfied that the amount of gold and silver bullion in the possession of Dr. Riddell, is fully equal to that called for by the books of my office.

H. C. CAMMACK,
 Treasurer U. S. Branch Mint.

Before its arrival
 Adm. n. p. - The Adm. in the complaint
 made against you had
 ordered a statement of the
 complaint against you to be
 furnished for your
 explanation. They are as follows
 (The State Minn.)
 Give early attention to such cases as the mint

COMMUNICATED.

Two editorial communications have appeared in the Sun, casting suspicions on the integrity of the smelter and refiner in the mint, and promising that an investigation about to be instituted, will soon be made known. The higher officers in the mint have never entertained or expressed the least doubt of the integrity of the smelter and refiner, and the only investigation proposed was volunteered by himself, to silence the false reports raised by the misrepresentations of an individual who was lately in his employ as a laborer.

Here is a copy of the Treasurer's report :

Treasurer's Office, United States Branch Mint, }
NEW ORLEANS, May 31, 1840. *}*

Be it known, that I have this day, at the request Dr. J. L. Riddell, smelter and refiner of this mint, (and in the presence of J. M. Kennedy, Esq. Superintendent,) examined the contents of his vaults ; I have weighed the bullion, as far as it is susceptible of being weighed, and have estimated the balance, and am satisfied that the amount of gold and silver bullion in the possession of Dr. Riddell, is fully equal to that called for by the books of my office.

H. C. CAMMACK,
Treasurer U. S. Branch Mint.

M 129 131
United States Branch Mint, New Orleans 30th June
1840.

To his Excellency Martin Van Buren.
Sir

I have been informed that some complaint have been laid before you, having reference to my standing as Melter and Refiner in this Mint - the office you were pleased to confer upon me some eight months since. I hear that great stress is laid upon the circumstances and possible consequences, of an assault committed with the open hand upon a person who had recently been employed in the mint, though at the time, no way connected with it.

What I did, I was advised to do by the officers of the mint, - Messrs. Kennedy & Cammack; and by them and others my conduct was afterwards warmly approved. It is true, I have been convicted of an assault and battery, but as a civil action is pending relative to the same matter, no sentence will be given for a year or two, until the latter be first decided. The Judge in the Criminal Court assures me that mitigating testimony relating to the slander and libel which caused the assault will be admitted, and that the punishment shall be pecuniary, rather than in the way of imprisonment. Conscious of having faithfully done my duty, my brief request is, that I be not sacrificed without a fair hearing, nor without due inquiry.

I should be sorry to suffer wrongly in your
estimation, - at the instance too, of some who are
unfriendly to your reelection.

Respectfully your
Most Obedient & Humble
Servant
J. L. Riddell

file with the
complaint

W

M 130

132

Branch Mint of the United States
New Orleans 7th July 1840

Sir,

I have the honor to acknowledge
the receipt of your communication of the 24th
ultimo, for which you will please accept
my thanks. In a reasonably short time I will
forward you such answers and refutations
to the various charges against me, as
will I trust prove satisfactory

Respectfully
Your Obedient
and Humble
Servant

J. L. Riddell

To the Hon. Levi Woodbury
Secretary of the Treasury

(Copy)

New Orleans 17th May 1840

133

Sir

I have had the honor to receive your Letter of the 5th Inst, accompanied with an abstract of a Communication made you by Doctor Patterson of Phil^a, in relation to the Branch of the Mint of the U^S in this City, and you request me in your Letter, to be informed of the facts of the Case, with a view to a Communication to Congress in order to obtain an additional appropriation, to meet the Bill of exp^{ts} attached by that for extra Work done under the Contract, stating that you do not feel yourself justified to pay that Bill without such a measure.

In compliance with your request, permit me to state, in the first place, that Doctor Patterson has been pleased to assume two positions in his Communication to you, which is not founded in fact, this must be ascribed to his want of information on the subject, otherwise I am persuaded he would not have done me an act of wanton injustice in doing so.

First, then, he states, that the alterations made in the building, was calculated to diminish, rather than to increase the Costs; this assumption may be doubted, for such is not the fact, but on the contrary, if two buildings were to be erected, one under the first, and the other under the altered plan, the latter would cost the most, this however may be an honest difference of opinion between individuals, but it can no longer be a difference of opinion, when the facts of the Case is known, which might have been the case, if Doctor Patterson had thought proper to have addressed me on the subject, when the plan ^{was} altered, the Center part of the building, and one of its Wings, had progressed so far, as to be nearly ready for the Roof; thus the alterations contemplated, not only had to be taken down, but others put up, in all such operations it was more than double Work; those alterations were numerous, because the greater part of the operations of the Mint had to be altered, to correspond with the change made in its distribution, this must be manifest to you, and would have been so to Doctor Patterson, had he known the fact.

Secondly. The Doctor states, "that he was informed by a gentleman from New Orleans, that the East Wing was executed according to both plans,

"that it was first fitted up according to the rejected plan, with four stoves
"Hornaces for, and afterwards, altered into a dwelling" : this assertion of the
Doctors to be understood, must be divided into two parts, first, it was by
my positive instructions, executed ^{according} to the original plan, not contemplating that
the Superintendent should reside in the edifice, but that the Corner, Hall
of Refractor and the apogee, should be provided for, by living in the building,
and he further states, that the Hornaces were erected in this wing, which
it seems he considered it as perfectly unnecessary, I thought so too, and as
an evidence of this fact, I state, that no Hornaces were there, or has since
been erected in that wing.

Secondly. The Doctor would make me responsible for the
acts of the Superintendent, over whom I had no control, he ordered the
alterations in this wing.

The fact is, under ordinary circumstances, I ought to have
interfered and opposed those alterations, but under the peculiar nature
of things, as they actually stood, in relation to the officers of the edifice,
I was placed in a peculiar situation, unfortunately by their efforts
"ments, the elements of discord was engendered in an eminent degree.
of this fact, I need not appeal to you or Dr. Patterson, subsequently
occurrences prove the assertion.

I did not consider it proper, or my province to inform
either you or Dr. Patterson, of the hostile feelings and conduct of the officers
towards each other, but I deemed it my duty to reconcile them, if possible.
This desirable object, I thought I had effected more than once, but in this
I was disappointed, as often, through my interposition, as a reconciliation
took place, it was as often defeated, by the malicious interference of
those, politically and morally opposed to the present administration, to this
cause I ascribe, in a great degree, the bad feelings engendered by the
officers of the edifice towards each other, with a view, however, to
peace and quiet, and acting under the vain hope to please all, I
confess that I consented to many alterations, in my estimation perfectly
unnecessary - to illustrate this view, I will only state one case, for
your information, it was decided that the operations of the Corner
should be carried on in the basement story of the West wing, under
this view, the distribution of that part of the building was erected and
finished, long before the arrival of the officers of the edifice, however
on their arrival, it was by them, considered as not a proper place, but
the Room in the principal story, immediately above it, was selected for
that purpose, to this alteration I objected, in the first instance, but
afterwards consented, for the reasons before stated - Now in changing

the operations of one Department, it ^{altowed} effectually affected the operation of another, which as a matter of necessity, to be carried out, would effect a change in the whole, or the greater part of the different operations, hence the increased expense, tho it is doubtful, if I could have legally prevented it, or if I was lawfully authorized to interfere in any manner whatsoever;

The extra appropriations heretofore made by Congress was in my estimation more than sufficient to complete the Edifice in all its parts, and to have left a surplus unexpended, how and in what manner it has been expended I know not, as not having this contingent appropriation under my control, I was indeed astonished, when I approved of the accounts of the Contractors for extra work (which was, by me, deemed, as it was actually necessary) to learn for the first time, that all the appropriations had been expended,

I am willing to take upon myself all the responsibility incurred by my own acts, but I am unwilling to take upon myself the acts of others, over which I had no control.

I have already had sufficient trouble in this matter, more than I shall ever undertake again for like purposes. The accounts, in the first instance rendered by the Contractors, for extra work, exceeded the sum of \$30,000, to ascertain and separate the different Bills, so as to come to the just amount, was to me a very unpleasant and disagreeable duty, it was however performed, in equity and justice, to the best of my judgment, and after many angry and ill reasoned conferences, I consented finally to leave the subject to arbitration, which was settled and adjusted, at the amount stated in the accounts made out in conformity to the award, for which I gave an order on the Treasury in conformity to the award, for which I gave an order on the Treasury ^{independent} to pay the same out of the extra appropriations heretofore made by Congress.

In this case, according to the Laws, in our State, and perhaps in that of yours, a Contract made and entered into, being changed annually, more particularly if such a change is made by only one of the parties, which was the case in the present instance, the Contract having been made and entered into, and considerable progress made in the building before the alteration made in the plan was effected; thus the Government was placed in the power of the Contractors, who might charge, as they actually did, more than the extra work was worth, or at least more than I considered they were entitled to — hence the trouble and disagreeable vexations to which I was subjected to,

If the accounts, in the first instance

had been approved by me, and presented to the Superintendent, when he had money in hand for that purpose, they would have been promptly paid, and thus the matter would have ended. Thus Sir, I have given you a very full detail of matters and things upon the subject required, which I am in hopes may be satisfactory —

New Orleans 24th June 1840

Sir,
The foregoing is a copy of a letter, which I addressed to you under date the 17th inst, which was put into the post office in this place early on the morning of the 18th, by your letter of the 13th instant which I had the honor to receive on the 22nd instant, I perceive that the original had not reached you.

With great respect, I have the honor to be, Sir, your obed^t Serv^t
 Martin Gordon Sen

The Honorable
 Levi Woodberry
 Secretary of the Treasury
 Washington

Let Mr. Kearney
 examine
 or him - unless
 for the committee
 should be named
 to the committee
 20
 July 6
 McKean

M 132
Branch Mint New Orleans
18 July. 1840.

134

Wm. Levi Wordbury
Sir.

On the 15th inst. I mailed for
you my reply to charges preferred
against me, — with accompanying
documents. Ere this reaches you, I trust
you will have received that.

I take the liberty of inclosing a
copy of a letter from Dr. E. H. Barton to
the Director of the Mint, in the Subject of
the Mabasthy outrage. Permit me to
add that Dr. Barton, late professor of
Theory and practice of Medicine, stands
in this city at the head of his profession.
No one is more generally and deservedly
respected.

With great respect I
subscribe myself
Your obt Serv't.
J. L. Riddell

Send this with other papers
to the Director W

M

133

135

United States Br. Mint, New Orleans
Treasurer's Office, July 21. 1840

Sir,

I have the honor to acknowledge receipt of your letter of 7th July, covering a draft of the Treasurer of the United States, for \$8500. on the Collector of this Port, to be applied, on the Warrant of the Superintendent, in part payment of a claim preferred by Mitchell & Fox, for extra work done in the building of this Branch Mint.

I take due note of your instructions to cease further expenditures, under the head of "Buildings & Machinery", to which I shall attend.

In a recent letter to Mr. Kennedy, in answer to an application for an increase in the U. States Deposit Account, you intimated an intention of drawing on this Branch, against the amount already on deposit. I trust you will not find it necessary to do so, as a decrease in this account would materially retard the operations of Coining.

I am very respectfully
Yours obt. Servt

McCammael

Treasurer

Hon. Levi Woodbury
Secretary of the Treasury

M

134

136

Treasuring Office U. S. B. Mint
New Orleans July 28th 1840

Sir

I have the honor to acknowledge receipt of printed Circular of 7th & 9th instant, and of your letter of the 17th. Your instructions respecting certain Treasury drafts, that have been drawn on the Collector, notice of which may not have reached him, shall have my attention.

The following sums have been deposited with me in Silver Coins,

by Philip Pinckney Esq, Collector \$50,000. "

by A. J. Lewis

5,155. 42

returns for which will be made to the department, as soon as the proper forms are received, none of which have come to hand.

For my temporary accommodation, I have taken one of the vaults of the Mint, and will consult with the Superintendent of the Branch, as to a permanent arrangement.

I am, with great respect
Your most obed^t Serv^t

McCamack

Treas^r

To the Hon^{ble}

Genl Woodbury

Noted Com^r
as to forwarding for
10

July 30
New Orleans

W 135 137
Branch Mint, New Orleans, 29th July, 1848.

Hon. Levi Woodbury,
Sir.

It gives me pleasure to apprise you, that my expectations regarding the coinage of gold, as heretofore expressed to you, have every prospect of being fully realized. I inclose you a letter from our Superintendent on that subject.

Allow me to express a hope, that our Treasurer will be authorized to deposit for coinage, a portion of the Subtreasury funds in Mexican Dollars held by him. From $\frac{1}{2}$ to $\frac{3}{4}$ per cent profit would accrue to government therefrom.

Respectfully

Your Obedient

and humble

Servant

J. L. Riddell

Adj. Sup. Receipts from the clergy
will write to Secy. on the subject of it.
See by Jan. at the 10th of Feb.
L. W.

Ms 1312
U. S. Branch Mint 138
New Orleans July 28. 1840

J. J. Riddell
Melter & Refiner,
Sir,

It gives me much satisfaction to inform
you, that Mr. Tyler will be able to work
about \$12000 / which is nearly the whole
of your last melt of gold. I do not
now anticipate that our gold coinage
will suffer any farther interruption.

Respectfully,

J. J. Kennedy

Supt.

49 Aug 6
H. H.

for this
of the
137

M. U. S. Branch Mount 138
New Orleans, July 29, 1840.

Sir,

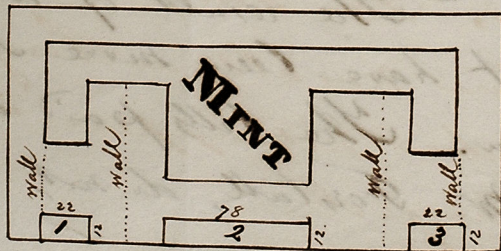
The delay which has taken place between the receipt of your communication of the 2nd instant and this reply, has been occasioned by my having been by you directed to state, whether the expenditures of Messrs. Forstall and Gammon, the late and present Treasurers of this Branch Mount, under the heads of "Out Houses, furniture, Marble Mantels &c," had been made with a due regard to economy. This required a knowledge, on my part, of the prices paid for each item coming under those heads, and a consequent examination of numerous papers and accounts.

The result of that examination might have been more satisfactory, for this reason. The ~~entry~~ paid during the trusteeship of Mr. Forstall, do not, in many instances,

Specify the particular Department for which those expenditures for Mantels and furniture were incurred. On the other hand, as no light on that head could be obtained from the present Officer of the Mint, they not having been in it at the time those articles were purchased, it has been impossible, in many cases, to identify them and ascertain the cost of each - All the information it had been in my power to obtain on the subject, I now have the honor to lay before you.

Out Houses

They consist of three buildings, placed on the South Side of the Square upon which the Mint is erected. They are composed entirely of bath rooms and privies, are marked on the following Sketch 1. 2. and 3, and were built, under the authority of the late Superintendent Mr. Brawford.



No. 1. and 3 Measure, each 22 feet in length by 12 feet in width, are covered with slates, and contain each two privies and two bath rooms. They are also 10 feet high in the clear. No. 2 is 78 feet long and 12 feet wide, contains 5 bath rooms, and 10 small privies, has also a slate roof, and is of the same height.

The amount of the contract for putting up those buildings, including the painting, and the yard walls, the whole extent of which is 306 feet in length by 8 feet in height, was \$4600. I do not think it was unreasonable.

The sum of \$1600 was also expended upon those buildings, as per contract with Clay & Clark, Plumbers, for baths, water closets, cisterns &c, (the whole lined with zinc,) and a considerable length of leaden pipes. This work, which is of an expensive nature was also authorized by Mr. Bradford, and does not appear to me to have been overcharged.

Marble Mantels

I find them to correspond in number with those charged in the bills. There are altogether 16, the cost of them ranging between fifty and ninety dollars. They all have their grates, the price of which also varies from thirty to fifty five dollars. It cannot be denied, that the original cost of wooden mantels would have been considerably less, but as they are constantly requiring paint and other repairs, I look upon the purchase of marble ones as an economy in the long run. They also correspond better with the style of the building and the prices paid for them I do not consider extravagant. They were, with one exception purchased under the authority of the late Superintendent.

Referring at the time of my appointment ^{my own residence} to one in the Mint, the apartment to which I was entitled I gave up to Mr. Cammack. That gentleman applied to me to sanction certain alterations that he was desirous of making in the premises.

M 138 140

Fearing that the ^{magnitude of} expense to be incurred there
might be found fault with by yourself, I
referred the matter to the Director of the Mint
in Philadelphia. Dr. Patterson replied as
follows.

" I have been embarrassed by the applica-
" tion made on behalf of Mr. Cammack for
" alteration in his apartment in the Mint, so
" much am I afraid of additional expenses at
" this time. If you deem the alterations necessary
" however, and think they cannot be conveniently
" postponed, I presume you would be justified
" in providing for the comfortable accommoda-
" tion of the Treasurer, whose residence at
" the Mint is very desirable for the public
" service."

Under this authority, the alterations were allowed,
and the purchase of one Marble Mantel / that
constituting the exception already mentioned /
was permitted by me. Its price was \$ Co. —

Furniture.

I will beg leave to state, that this furniture

has been paid for, not out of the appropriations
for the "Building and Machinery," of the Mint
but has been charged either to contingent and
Incidental expenses "or to account of "Apparatus,
Tools and Fixtures". You have already on
file in your Department the bills for furniture
that were paid by Mr. Postall. Those paid
on account of purchases under that head, made
since Mr. Cammack's appointment, were
transmitted by that Officer with his last
quarterly accounts.

I enclose a list of all the furniture
now in the different offices in the Mint. Mr.
Cammack has gone to no expense, that was
either useless or too great, and so far as
the furniture purchased under the authority
of Mr. Bradford, can be, from its descrip-
-tion in the accounts, identified, the charges
therefor do not appear to me to be unfair.

In answer to your last inquiry
I have the honor to state, that all the

Officers of the Mint reside therein, with the
exception of myself.

Very respectfully
Your obed^t. Serv^t.

Hon^{ble} Sir Wm Lloyd

Sec^y of the
Treasury

J. M. McKim
Capt^t

141

M 139

List of Furniture in the Offices of the different departments
of the United States Branch Mint, New Orleans.

Superintendent's Office

- 1 Bureau or Secretary
- 1 Mahogany Office Chair
- 6 Mahogany Chairs
- 1 Rack
- 1 Carpet & 1 Rug
- 1 Table with Cloth cover
- 1 portable writing Desk
- 1 Bust of Edward Livingston

Treasurer's Office

- 1 Standing Counting House Desk
- 1 Mahogany Desk
- 1 Book Case
- 1 Mahogany Table with Cloth
- 1 Rack
- 1 Mahogany Office Chair
- 1 Desk Stool
- 2 Mahogany Chairs
- 1 Mahogany Railing to enclose the Desks
- 3 Mahogany Cases for Collection of Coins
- 1 Carpet and 1 Rug
- 2 Spittoons

Assayer's Department

- 1 large Desk
- 2 small Common Tables
- 1 large solid Table for assay balance &c
- 1 dozen Cam bottom Chairs
- 1 dozen Common Chairs
- 2 Iron Stoves
- 3 large Cupboards
- 1 large Cistern &c
- Stands for the humid assay, Apparatus Shelves &c
- 1 best office Chair of Mahogany
- Oil cloth Covering for Weighing Room

Melter & Refiner's Office

- 1 Franklin Stove, Shovel, Tongs & Forks
- 1 Office Table
- 1 Arm Mahogany Chair
- 5 Mahogany Chairs
- 1 Portable Desk

Melting Room

- 1 Table
- 1 Desk

Coiner's Office

- 6 Mahogany Chairs
- 1 Desk and 2 Office Tables
- 1 Counter

Weighing Room, Treasurer's dep't

142

2 Desks and 1 Book Case

2 Office Tables

1 Counter

2 Spittoons

2 Maps

Inside Gallery

1 dozen Cane bottom Chairs

3 Maps

M

140

143

U. S. Branch Mint
Charlotte N.C. 5 Aug. 1840.

Sir

Yours of the 27th Ult. was received by the last mail.
The Deposit of \$32,000. in this Mint, "to purchase metal for
coinage", cannot in my opinion be withdrawn, or any portion of it, without
serious detriment to our Coining Operations. To show that this is the case,
my Returns to your Department on 30 June last, (2nd Quarter of 1840) present
thus as the state of the funds.

U. States Deposits "to purchase metal for coinage" \$32,000. 00.

In hands of Minter & Refiner (in Gold) to
be accounted for by him \$5,184. 21.

Do Do in Silver

(see his a/c of 2^d Quarter of 1840.) 1,245. 62.

In the hands of Coiner in Gold to be
accounted for by him (see his a/c 2^d Quarter 1840) 6,892. 25.

In the hands of Treasurer in Gold Bullion 9,942. 54.

" Do in Coin to balance this a/c 8,735. 38. \$32,000. 00.

I inclose, to show you in addition to this statement,
a statement for the Month of July, which I cause to be made out at the end of
each Month, at this Branch; which shows that the Gold coin in my vault on the
31 July, 1840 was Four Thousand, Nine hundred and Forty three ⁷⁹/₁₀₀ Dollars,
(\$4,943. 79) and the Silver Coin in the same was Seven hundred and three ⁷⁸/₁₀₀
Dollars (\$703. 78); the balance of the fund of \$32,000. being in the different
Officers' hands, undergoing the various operations of Coining.

This sum of Five Thousand Six hundred and Forty Seven
Dollars (\$5,647. 57) is all that could be available at this moment to the

Treasury. It will be increased as soon as the Bullion now in the hands of the Coiner, is converted into Coin, and verified at Philadelphia; but in the interim, the sum on hand may be demanded for prompt payment to depositors as soon as they are asayed.

This statement will show you that we keep up on each month an attentive check, and this statement is occasionally sent to the Director at Philadelphia, and a reference to him will show, I think, in addition to the above that no portion of the deposits to purchase metal for coinage, can be withdrawn from this Mint, without serious detriment to our operations.

Your recommendation, as regards "exercising the closest attention to economy in all expenditures of this Mint, and retrenching whenever practicable," shall be strictly attended to by me, and inculcated on those associated with me; The expenses incident to the outfit (necessarily heavy in a large establishment) have been all encountered; I have laid in and paid for a stock of material for the whole year to come; and without some unforeseen occurrence, I trust, that there will be a surplus of the appropriation made by Congress; the estimate for which however, was reduced to the lowest possible cent.

I have the honor to be
Very respectfully
Your Obedt Servt

Geo. N. Wheeler
Superintendent

Hon^{ble} S. Woodbury
Sec. Treasury
Washington City.

Of the Financials of July 1840.

	Dec.	Dollars.	Cents.
To amount due Depositors, -		4,943.	79
" " of United States Depo for Coinage," -	28,547	6,100.	54
" " gained by deductions and Loss, - - -		703.	78
	14,436	5,663.	59
	14,396	1,296.	22
	50,310	15,819.	80
	97,689.	34,527.	72

submitted,

W. F. Strange, Clerk.

To the Superintendent

I Certify that the above
TO THE DIRECTOR,
F. L. ..., Superintendent.
5th of August 1840

Secretary of the Treasury.

Amount in my hands
Credit Treasury of the United States \$228,035.26
Credit Ditto for servin of G.P.O. Dep^t 2,134.61
Credit of the Postmaster General 1,387.87
Balance per Cash Book // 231,557.74

of the Bullion **STATEMENT**
Of the Financial condition of the Branch of the U. S. Mint at Charlotte, N. C., 31st of July 1840.

	Dollars.	Cents.
To amount due Depositors, - - - - -	2,307	14
" " of United States Deposit "to purchase metal for Coinage," - - - - -	32,000	
" " gained by deductions from Deposits in Profit and Loss, - - - - -	215	36

34,522. 50.

To the Superintendent

I Certify that the above amounts and statement are accurate, from an examination made by me this day.

TO THE DIRECTOR,

Philadelphia.

By Gold Coin in Treasurer's Vault, - - - - -

" " Bullion do. do. - - - - -

" Silver Coin do. do. - - - - -

" " Bullion { do. do. - - - - -

" Gold do. in Melter and Refiner's do., - - -

" Silver do. do. do. do., - - -

" Gold do. in Coiner's do., - - -

Ozs.	Dca.	Dollars.	Cents.
		4,943	79
328	547	6,100	54
		703	78
304	436	5,663	59
1,114	396	1,296	22
850	310	15,819	80

2,597. 689. 34,527. 72.

Respectfully submitted,

W. F. Strange, Clerk.

W. A. Miller, Superintendent.
 Charlotte, N. C. 5th of August 1840

M 141

144

Treasurer's Office U. S. Br. Mint
New Orleans, August 29. 1840

Sir,

I have the honor to transmit to you herewith, weekly returns of moneys received and paid out by me, during the week ending this day, shewing balance in my hands to the credit of the Treasurer of the United States of \$228.035.26, and of moneys deposited to the credit of the Treasurer of the U. States, for the service of the General Post Office Department, shewing balance in my hands of \$2,134.61. By the latter account you will perceive that an error of 25 cents occurred in the return for last week, which has been corrected in that for this week.

I am very respectfully
Yours. obt. Servt
A. Blammasch
Treasurer

Hon. Levi Woodbury
Secretary of the Treasury.

Amount in my hands	
Credit Treasurer of the United States	\$228.035.26
Credit ditto for service of G. P. O. Dep ^t	2,134.61
Credit of the Postmaster General	1,387.87
Balance per Cash Book	<u>\$231,557.74</u>

142

Gadsby's Hotel 18th Sept. 1840.

145

Hon. Levi Woodbury,

Sir—

Having finished my visit to the Philadelphia Mint, and the Silver Refineries in New York, I am now on my return to New Orleans.

My objects have been twofold:— First, to gather all the practical information within my reach relating to the refining and management of the precious metals:— Second, to look out some implements and materials of which my department in the New Orleans Mint stands in need, and especially to negotiate with the sweep smelters of New York, a sale of such refuse sweep as our means will not enable us to work up.

All these things I have satisfactorily accomplished. Thus I have been travelling (and, on account of my short leave of absence, by the most speedy and expensive routes,) wholly for the benefit of the mint. I have therefore to request that you will sanction the payment of my travelling expenses, say from the contingent fund of the New Orleans Mint.

Be pleased to notify me of such conclusion as you may come to in the premises.

I have the honor to be respectfully
your O^bt. Servant

J. L. Riddell, M & R. Branch Mint
w. at.

Mr 143

146

Treasurer's Office U. S. Branch Mint
New Orleans, September 12th 1840

Sir,

Herewith enclosed, I have the honor of transmitting you, weekly returns of moneys received and paid out by me, as a depository of public moneys, during the week ending this day; and of moneys deposited to the credit of the Treasurer of the United States, for the service of the General Post Office Department: The former shewing a balance in my hands of \$278.733.78. and the latter a balance of \$4601.98.

By instructions contained in your circular of 7th July, I am directed to give prompt information to the Department, if any of the collecting Officers, fail to make punctually with me, periodical or weekly deposits, as required by law; The returns rendered by me weekly, will show the deposits made by the different collecting Officers, and contain the most correct information I can communicate. You will

observe by the enclosed returns, that no deposits have been made with me this week, by any of the collecting Officers. I am very respectfully
Yours obt. Servt,
St. Cammack

W. Fisher on acct the Coll. after finds that he had nothing to deposit.

affirm coll. of this report - unless it appears that there is nothing to deposit - if it so appears then
Hon. Levi Woodbury
Secy of the Treasury. always to notify
Sept 12 1840

M

Branch Mint

New Orleans, Sept 12, 1840

147

Sir,

Let me assure you, that the dissatisfaction which it has been intimated to the Treasury Department, "has been expressed by the depositors of Small sums "for recoinage" with our Mint, is altogether without cause, and that, for their complaints "that their claims for repayment are postponed in favor of larger depositors," there is not the slightest foundation.

The rule suggested by you of "paying for" the deposits in the order in which they are made" has already been prescribed by Dr. Patterson in his instructions to us. In every instance in which it has been departed from, the Small, and not the larger depositors have benefited by the deviation. This fact the records of the Mint will show.

Our largest deposits have generally come from the Banks. They have, in some cases, ~~been~~ ^{them} made at the instance of Mr. Cammack, and in others, at my own, more with a view of avoiding any interruption in our operations, from the want of Bullion, than because they have

stood in need of our coin. Hence, they have for
repayment been almost always willing to await
convenience, and it has, sometimes happened, that
of the amount received from their deposits, ^{small} ~~small~~
depositors, whose claims upon the Mint, an observance
of the rule aforesaid, would have postponed in
favor of them, have been paid first.

It is somewhat surprising that
these complaints should have reached
Washington, and not have been uttered here.
Excuse me, Sir, for giving it to you, as my
opinion, that they have been aimed at Mr.
Cammack, and maliciously made, with the
view of impairing his official standing
with the Department.

I am with great respect
your obed^t. Serv^t.

Hon^{ble} Levi Woodbury

Sec^y of the Secor^y

Washington City

J. M. Kennedy

M

145

148

Treasurer's Office U.S. Br. Mint
New Orleans 16 Oct. 1840.

Sir

I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 5th instant informing that the Collector of the Customs for this port will deposit with me all public moneys now in his hands, and deliver a list of all drafts yet outstanding against him to be paid by me, when presented, on his making the deposit referred to.

I am
very respectfully
your faithful servant
H. Cammack
Treasr

To The

Honorable Levi Woodbury
Secy of the Treasury.

M

146

149

Washington Decr 12. 1840.

Sir

I enclose to the Department a Bill of
Beals & Greene for advertising Proposals for the
U. S. Mint at New Orleans -

You will perceive by the Letters enclosed that
there has been no answer on the part of the
Printers but they have been unable to obtain any
reply to their application, and as the Commissioner
for erecting the Mint may have closed his accounts
it appeared to me best to enclose the Bill of costs
to the Treasury Department -

I am very respectfully

Yr Obedt Servt

Jas Rowland

Sunk into
the reply
to

Hon. Levi Woodbury

Secy of Treasury

Ans'd 25. Jan. 1841

Ms (147)

150

Mint of the United States
Philad^a. April 10th 1835

The Editors of the Boston
Morning Post.

Gentlemen.

Herewith you will receive
a copy of the Pennsylvanian, containing an invi-
tation for proposals, to construct the Building
for the Branch Mint at New Orleans. — Please
let it have six insertions, on alternate days,
and forward the Bill to Martin Gordon Esq.
New Orleans, for payment.

Very Respectfully
Yours Obedt. Servt.

Wm Moore
Director

14 days.

21
16 50
31.50

125
21
104

30
5
40
15

148

151

Mint of the United States.
July 20th, 1837.

Gentlemen,

Your letter of the 5th, post-mailed the 9th, was duly received; and I have written to Gen. Gordon, the Commissioner for erecting the new-
Utahs Mint, on the subject of your charge. He had no doubt forgotten it; but will attend to your claim, I am sure, on receiving my letter.

Most respectfully,
Your faithful servant,
H. M. Patterson,
(Director)

To
Messrs. Beals & Greene.

M

149

152

Mint of the United States,
December 7th, 1838.

Gentlemen,

I was surprised to find,
from your letter of the 4th inst., that your
claim on the New Orleans Branch Mint
was still unsettled. I have written on the
subject to the Superintendent of that Branch,
(David Bradford, Esq.,) and begged his im-
mediate attention to the matter.

Very respectfully,

your faithful servant,

R. M. Patterson,
(Director.)

To,

Messrs. Beal & Greene,
Proprietors of Boston-
Morning Post.

Letter from R. M.
Patterson

M. H. 50 Branch Mint
New Orleans, Dec 21. 1840

153

Sir,

I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt
of three boxes of dies transmitted by D. Patten-
to this Branch Mint, thru the Treasury
Department, and refer'd to in your letter
of the 2nd instant.

Very respectfully
Yours obed^t Serv^t

J. M. McKim,
Asst. Sec^y

Hon: Levi Woodbury
Sec^y of the Treas^y

M

(157)

154

Br. U.S. Mint,
Dahlonga 1 January 1840

Hon. Levi Woodbury

Sir I have the hon. to enclose
you by the same mail which carries this our
fifth and last package of gold coinage of 1839,
for the annual assay at Philadelphia, containing seventeen
quarter eagles, of various mints as p. no. amounting in
value to forty two dollars and fifty cents. which you
will be pleased to receive and forward to the Director
of the Mint at Philadelphia.

Very respectfully your
Samuel S. Searns.
J. P. Singleton
Capt. & Treasurer

Attn to this
W

276 Du
Mear

Atcheson Ga. 7th Jan. 1840

Coucher handed
to the Major
14 Jan. 1840

Hon. Secy Woodbury

Sir

I have the honor to inform you that I this day had an interview with the contractors that built the branch Mink Co. office at Dakota and found them in a distressed situation, which was greatly relieved by paying them the amount remitted me for that purpose, as per your instruction of the 13th ult. Col. Jewell has in his hands the amount mentioned in your letter, and the contractors are wholly dependent on him for that amount, and the \$4000 which he alleges that he is bound for, will be paid by the contractors out of the funds which I have just paid them. I have formally called upon Col. Jewell for a settlement in conformity with your instructions of the 19th ult. There has not been sufficient time for a reply. In the event of a disregard to my call, which I will not be surprised at, I will thank you to give me such instructions as are usual in such cases. Herewith inclosed is a receipt for the amount paid (\$13094.17) Their Bill for extra work I have previously examined, and thought was reasonable.

Send a copy of this letter
& request that the business
be now forthwith closed

Very respectfully your humble
servant
J. P. Singleton
Capt. Co. First in East

Sir

M

(153)
Cornington Geo. Jan 7th 1840

156

By this days mail I have received your communication dated the 11th & 14th inst. Be pleased to tell me now to whom I must pay the four thousand ^{dollars} for which I stood engaged to the Geo. Rail Road Bank, it was paid by Dr. Singletown without apprising me of his purpose, or calling on me to do it, or what reason he best can tell, I will pay the money to any one you may direct, and transmit the receipt to yourself.

Honble Levi Woodbury
Secretary of the Treasury

Respectfully your Obedt Servt
Singular A. Shaw

After apt. given him
he should pay it to
the contractor - to
whom the money belongs.

308 Jan
W. H. A.

154

157

Hon. W. D. Mint

Dahlonaga 7th February 1841

Hon. Isaac Woodbury

Sir, I have the hon. of begging a portion of your particular attention to the following. By a communication just received from the "first Comptrollers Office dated 21st Feb. I am made to owe the Treasury Department up to the 30th June 1839 \$14,702.37 including a balance of \$1,859.78. and some suspended vouchers to the amount of \$321.73. which balance is found to be correct, and the suspended vouchers I hope after my explanation to the Comptroller will be found correct, and will be allowed. The two later sums taken from the former leaves \$12,521.30 said to be former differences to my debts. Now Sir, to this later amount I respectfully call your attention with a view of obtaining a release from the supposed liability.

I have given Mr. Barker a full explanation of my views on the subject, which I hope will be satisfactory to him, and which will enable him to explain the matter to you more fully. The differences above mentioned, must have been occasioned by the destruction of my vouchers at a Post Office within 20 miles of this place, known by the name of Murrays Store or Murraysville, I do not know which, when a great deal of money was parted, and many of my packages

and communications to the Director of the Mint were
destroyed in 1838 to my certain knowledge, and which
delinquency is no doubt known at the Genl Post Office
Department. I have copies of all my Drafts upon
the Treasury Department, the responses to the same,
and Duplicate vouchers for all my Disbursements, which
enables me to say in the fullest confidence that I
do not owe the Government one dollar, save the small
amount now in my vault.

This Sir, is a subject of considerable magnitude to me,
setting aside the sanctity of my oath, and obligations
to my securities; one which hangs heavily over me and
my family, and one in my humble opinion should be
speedily settled, and for which purpose I respectfully
invite your attention, and authority.

It will at any time afford me great pleasure to
give the Department any evidence it may please to
require of my possession of the aforesaid Duplicate
vouchers, should this be my only reliance.

I am Sir very respectfully
your humble servant.

J. S. Singleton
Capt. & Treasurer

Refer to Compt.
for a report
of what is the
difficulty
in his seeing
how the duplicate
revisions
or even copies
of them -

26 Feb.
Dear Mr. Compt. & Mr. [unclear]
Your reply stating that he must furnish
the duplicate of number or of
not take duplicate - same as in

W 2/155-
Treasury Department.

Comptroller's Office,

February 26th 1840.

158

Sir,

In compliance with your reference of the enclosed letter of Joseph J. Singleton, Treasurer of the Branch Mint at Dahlonega, I have the honor to report, that he was yesterday directed to forward to the First Auditor, any additional claims to credit that he may have, and support them by the best evidence in his power to give.

I also enclose a copy of a letter to Mr. Singleton of the 4th March 1839, showing the condition of his accounts of Ordinary Receipts and Expenditures to the 31st December 1838.

I have the honor to be

Very Respectfully

Your Obedt Servt

J. B. Baker

Comptroller,

Hon Levi Woodbury
Secretary of the Treasury

(copy)

M 156

Treasury Department.

159

Comptroller's Office.

Sir,

March 4th 1839.

Your account as Treasurer of the Branch Mint at Dahlonega, Georgia, relative to the salaries of the Officers and Clerks of the Mint from 1st February to 31st December 1838; for wages of laborers from the 30th September 1837 to the 31st December 1838, and for incidental and contingent expenses from the 25th February 1837 to the 31st December 1838, has been adjusted at the Treasury and a balance of \$14,624.20, stated to be due from you to the U. States,

The charge of \$240.51 as paid to Metter & Refiner and Corner for wastage of gold in your account for the 4th quarter 1838, has not been allowed in consequence of your not having forwarded ~~the~~ the vouchers for the same. When that is done you will be credited with the amount.

The Auditor has felt it his duty to state, that your accounts have been rendered in such a manner that it is impossible to account for the differences satisfactorily; and he has therefore called my particular attention to the fact in order that steps may be

taken to make you acquainted with the form in which they ought to be rendered -

I have to request therefore that in your next account you will take up the Treasury balance and credit all the warrants received from the Treasury, and then charge all your disbursements under the appropriate head of expenditure, that is to say - charge, first, salaries paid to the Officers and Clerks of the Mint for the quarter ending the 31st of this month; secondly, wages paid to laborers employed in the Mint for same quarter, and thirdly, incidental and contingent expenses for same quarter.

Mastage in the coinage of Gold and silver should appear in the account of Bullion.

Whenever you make a payment, you ~~you~~ should take duplicate receipts for the same, and transmit one of them with your accounts to the First Auditor of the Treasury.

Particular attention to your accounts and this request will save you much inconvenience and insure their being adjusted in a manner satisfactory to you.

Very Respectfully

Mr. North. If you
should prefer it - and
give me the facts and
correspondence - I will
prepare report.

Refer to 1st Comptroller
for a report - & what is the
difficulty in his sending
on the duplicate vouchers
or sworn copies of them.

18 Feb.

Mr
157

J. No 219 Feb 18
1st Comp. 160

M 158

161

Br. W. C. Mink
Dahlongga 1st March 1840

Don Saml Woodbar

Dear Sir from the general
Renour of your communications to me in re-
lation to the settlement with Col. Fear, I am
at a loss to know whether or not it is my
Duty to proceed any further in the matter.

By your letter of the 14th January last I am in-
formed that you had written again to Col. Fear
requesting him forthwith to pay over the bal-
ance &c. I have made repeated efforts to
ascertain the Col's inclination on the subject, and can
not even hear from him, I have suggested the
propriety of meeting him in Athens where the
Contractors (Messrs. Ginsley & Thomas) live for the
purpose of adjusting the matter but so various
and I do not know what more I can do, or even
whether it is necessary to go any further with
the subject until I can hear from you.

I have the honor Sir of
being yours respectfully
J. S. Singleton
Supt. & Treas.

M

159

162

Br. W. C. Mims
Dahlgren 3 April 1940

Gen. Lucian Woodbury,

Sir, perhaps it is my duty (if you have not been already apprised by Dr. Patterson) to mention that we are under the necessity of recovering our branch Miss Cooper with something other than zinc. From experience it appears that the material will not answer for a lasting tight Roof in a Southern climate. Our Roof now after the 3 trial, is in a very leaky condition, so much so, as to produce considerable damage to the Building by the falling of plastering &c. and I am apprehensive that the walls may be injured by freezing in the course of time.

I have conferred with Dr. Patterson on the subject ~~on the subject~~, and by, and with his advice and consent, I have determined to try Shingles, coated with a cement composed of Paint and Rosin, which I believe will make a better Roof than any metal, such as copper, and will not cost half as much, accordingly I have advertised for proposals. The cost will be in the neighborhood of a \$1000. which is thought desirable to be drawn out of our last year's (1939) Contingent fund; hoping that it may meet with your approbation.

In compliance with the request of the Comptroller
of the Treasury of the 25th February last, which was
in reply to mine of a previous date, on the subject
of the discrepancy in my ordinary accounts with
the Department, I have recently forwarded him
a correct statement of Debits, corresponding pre-
cisely with his, and credits sustained by my Books
and Duplicate Vouchers. It appears that some
of the original vouchers are either lost or mis-
placed, which, if I knew which they were, it
would afford me pleasure to supply their place
"with copies verified on oath", as suggested by your
communication of the 25th February last; and I thank
you for the advice of having "the subject early
closed up". I hope the statement will be satis-
sfactory to Mr. Barker.

I am the hon. sir, of
being yours very respectfully
J. S. Singleton
Capt. & Treasurer

Enclosure to Director copy
of that part of the
to the next ash box
attention

Sir

Savannah Ga April 25th 1848

Your communication dated the 9th March did not reach me until some weeks after it was mailed, in consequence of having been directed to Corington, and not to this place, as I ^{had} requested. In your communication dated the 13th March 1835, which notified me of my appointment as Commissioner for erecting the Branch Mint, you say "Your compensation will be a commission not exceeding two per cent on the amount ^{to be} expended for the erection of the building, and the purchase of the site, to be paid out of the \$50,000." I of course cannot consent to receive two per cent upon the amount paid out by me, - if your engagement could have been fairly so construed, you might have defeated my whole claim. Without further reference to the parsimonious allowance made to me by stipulation, I can only express my surprise, that there should be any attempt made to defeat my claim to it, after I have performed all the duties, onerous & vexatious as they were, and, I will say it, & defy reputation, performed them well. The whole sum expended under my direction was \$36,458.88 $\frac{1}{4}$ - to wit, by original contract for edifice \$33,450. Extra work \$1569.50, cost of the site \$1050. Other incidental expenses stated and allowed in my accounts \$389.38 $\frac{1}{4}$, and two per cent upon \$36,458.88 $\frac{1}{4}$ will amount to \$729.17 $\frac{66}{100}$. That sum I shall retain, and the balance, unless my friends should obtain justice for me, I will pay to the Government whenever required. That balance is (\$661.44 $\frac{66}{100}$) six hundred and sixty one dollars and forty four cents. Very respectfully
Honble Levi Woodbury
Secretary of the Treasury

Wm. A. Star

The acct, we are able in the Register's office and will show
 the amt of entry given also the amount of compensation
 allowed. I furnished the within gathering with a
 memorandum of the amount of both.
 May 2. 1820 - *James*

Referred to the Auditor
 who will please state the
 several items on which Com
 p has been allowed Comptrol
 in his account as stated by
 him & the Auditor. May 6 City
 May 2 J.D.

May 1
 165
 W. H. H.

22.130
 13.094
 15.691
 36.418
 1.234
 1.59

22.130
 13.094
 15.691
 36.418
 1.234
 1.59

22.130
 13.094
 15.691
 36.418
 1.234
 1.59

Mr Hewes hisbursements on which he
has no Commis
Part of Dr bursements in his first acct
No 69.978 \$2795.56

ad 2^d acct. No 78.360 — 13.943.82

In this report he was allowed \$16.739.38

Commis at 2 per cent on
this sum which amounts to \$334.79

In his last acct No 79.109 he
rec'd credit for paym't to
Towers — for — 4000 —

Com — 80.00

$$\begin{array}{r} 16739.38 \\ 4000 - \\ 13094.17 \\ \hline 33833.55 \\ 1569.50 \\ \hline 35403.05 \end{array}$$

$$\begin{array}{r} 414.79 \\ \hline 20.739.38 \end{array}$$

Singlton has paid Towers — 13.094.17
 On which no Commis has been
allowed 27188

The balance appearing due
from Hewes is \$975.83

$$\begin{array}{r} 975.83 \\ 729.76 \\ \hline 246.07 \\ 685 \end{array}$$

$$\begin{array}{r} 975.83 \\ 661.44 \\ \hline 314.39 \\ 416.79 \\ \hline 799.69 \\ 929.18 \end{array}$$

M

162

164

Br. W. O. Mint
Daklonega 8th June 1840

Hon. Secy. Woodbury

Sir, I have the hon.
to acknowledge the receipt (this day) of your
communication of the 28th Ult. All that I
now have to say in reply is, that I this day
dispatched Mr. E. H. Wingfield the Clerk of this
branch of the Mint, (and would have sent
him sooner but for the unusual (detruction
of Bridges owing to the recent excessive rains)
with all my duplicate vouchers up to
31st December 1839. to the Department, so I
hope Sir, that all the statements which I
have heretofore made in relation to them
will be found correct, and that all my
accounts may be settled up to that date.

Very respectfully
Your humble Servant
J. P. Singleton
Supt. & Treasr.

M

163

165

Br. U. V. Mint
Dahlonaga 30th June 1840

Hon. Isaac Woodbury

Sir, I have the hon-
or to inform you that immediately on the
receipt of your communication of the 1st Inst.
on the subject of the Appropriation for the
benefit of Messrs. Ginn & Downs Contractors
for building the Br. Mint Office at this place,
I addressed them *ces* *follos*. (Enclosed)

Messrs. Ginn & Downs

Gentlemen, the following
is a copy of a communication received this
day (13th) from the Treasury Department. Will
you be please to read it, and without
unnecessary delay enable me to give the
information therein called for.

Respectfully &c.

The copy accompanying this. There ~~has been~~
three return mails, and no reply, I am
at a loss to account for it. And my only
object in writing now is to apprize ^{you} that
I have attended to your instruction without
delay.

Very respectfully
Your humble servant

J. J. Singleton
Sept 26th

M

164

166

Br W. M. Mint
Dahlgren 15th July 1840

Hon Sir W. Woodbury

Sir, in the original employment of our laborers for this branch of the Mint, their travelling expenses to this place were allowed, by order of the Director of the Mint at Philadelphia. Since which, some of them have left, and we have to supply their places by the employment of others.

The Object of this communication is respectfully to enquire whether this allowance is to be continued or not. I am induced more particularly to make this enquiry from the circumstance of my own travelling expenses upon lawful business for the Mint being disallowed by the Department, and the difference in the financial resources of the Government at times of the commencement of our operations, and the present time.

Very n^ot

cannot be allowed

I have the honor Sir of
being your very humble servant

In the present state of the Treasury

it is also desirable to have

all subscriptions made in view of the expense of your

J. B. Singleton
Sup^y & Treas^r

M

165

167

Br. U.S. Mints
Daklonega 28th July 1840

Hon. Levi Woodbeare

Sir, in my communication of the 14th May last I had the hon. to ask your warrant in my favour for \$1,000 out of the unexpended balance of the appropriation for our incidental and contingent expenses of 1839, for the recovering of our Br. Mint Edition. This request not being granted, I respectfully suggest the propriety of permitting me to use funds which I now have in my hands for that purpose, under your sanction to D. Paterson of the 18th April last, and from which I made the contract, for the work now progressing by a mechanic who stands in need of his money as he earns it.

I am very respectfully
Sir your humble servant
J^{os} Singleton
Supt. & Treasurer

Look into this & reply
as the facts require

W

As Mr. Singleton has funds in
his hands - he might be authorized
to pay according to the contract.
P.D. Aug. 5/40
Respy Submitter
O.M.R.

FREE



John Lewis Woodbury
Secretary Treasury
Washington City
D.C.

M

So to - only need
an apt. to justify
it -
W

M45 Aug 5.
W. Kean

M

166

168

Bn. U. S. Mint
Dahlgren 10th August 1840

Gov. Levi Woodbury.

Sir, your communication of the 27th ult. was duly received, and a short absence has prevented an earlier reply.

I assure you that my purpose has been for a considerable time back to reduce the expenses of this Branch of the Mint as much as possible, consistent with the object of its establishment, believing as I do that its existence depends in a great degree upon the extent of economy used in its management.

You asked me to state how far the sum now in this Branch, can be reduced without interfering with the coining operations. To which I respectfully reply, that I cannot see how this sum can be reduced without materially injuring our coining operations, for the following reasons (viz) upon the Government Deposit of \$20,000. we make up what we call our Melts for coinage, from which, there is usually returned by the Coiner from 12 to 13,000 Dollars, and the balance in what we term Clippings, which alone enables us to keep on hand Coin to meet the demand

of Depositors. The correctness of each preparation for Coinage has to be tested at the Mint in Philadelphia before the Coin can be paid out which usually require 18 to 20 days, and moreover, it is very desirable that each Melt or preparation for Coinage should be as large as possible on account of the wastage attendant on the same, the liability being as great on a small, as on a large Melt.

The duties of Melter and refiner devolving on the Assayer under the law is another reason why the Gov. Deposits should not be reduced, because that officer cannot attend to both duties at the same time, hence the necessity of our Melts being as large as possible to enable us to pay our Depositors with that promptness desired by the law.

This branch of the Mint has been allowed a Gov. Deposit of \$20,000 while the branch Mint at Charlotte has been allowed \$30,000 for a similar purpose, we have gotten on with our sum, while we could have done better with the sum allowed to the Mint at Charlotte. Under our present arrangement, in connection with the amount of Bullion heretofore received, I have no doubt but what we will be enabled to meet the views of the Government so far as regards the prompt payment to Depositors with our

sum of \$20,000, and with a less sum, those
views I am fearful would be proportionately
defeated.

I am willing, however, at all times, to
conform to the wishes of the Department,
and as usual to do the best in my power
to promote the views of the present Gov-
ernment, by whatever means may be
placed in my hands.

I have the honor sir of
being very respectfully your
Humble Servant

J. S. Singleton
Secy. & Treasr.

M

167

169

Br. U.S. Mint
Dahlgren 30 December 1840

Hon. Levi Woodbury
Sir,

I have the honor
to accompany this with twelve pieces of
Gold Coin from our Melts No. 1 to 12 enclosing
for the Annual Assay at Philadelphia, value
\$57.50. which you will be pleased to
forward to the Director of the Mint.

Very respectfully your
Obedt. Servant
J. H. Singleton
Secy. & Treasr.

Altho H. H. Smith found them

I want to hold at
least half of the
deposit with you to secure
metal for carrying so
that it can be paid over
to the Treasury when called for

Aug
1840

M

168

170

U. S. Branch Mint
Charlotte N.C. 22 Jan 1840

Sir

I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of yours of the 2nd Inst. accompanied by the resolves of the Senate of the 30th Ult.

I am taking such steps as will secure accurate information on the subject alluded to, "the annual product of the Gold Mines of this Section of the United States", and I will at an early day communicate such information as I may have or procure.

I should be glad to know at what time you expect to answer the resolutions of the Senate. The remoter the day, the more accurate and satisfactory, of course, will be the information collected in this region.

I have the honor to be
Very respectfully
Your Obedt. Servt.

Thos. H. Wheeler

Ady. of the Mint

Sup. & Act. M. of
U. S. Branch Mint

to reply soon as practicable &

effect the object of the
resolution

Hon. Sec. of the Treasury
Washington City

M

169

171

M. S. Branch Mint
Charlotte N.C. 18 Feb 1840

Sir

Yours of the 7th Inst has been duly received, accompanied by a Box of dies from the Mint at Philadelphia.

In this communication you inform me that there is a small balance remaining of the appropriation for enclosing the Grounds at Charlotte (nearly \$500) and ask me to state "whether this balance or any portion of it will be required to complete any existing Contract in relation to said enclosure".

I reply that there is nothing due from the United States to any one "to complete any existing Contract in relation to the enclosure," since I have paid off the contracts. I had concluded that this fund had been exhausted by the Commissioner of the Buildings (Sam^l M^r Lomb) and myself. Under this impression I paid out of the Contingent fund of this year for a Stone Wall and pavement, the sum of \$720 which was more properly chargeable to the appropriation "for enclosing the Grounds". Should you think proper under these circumstances to restore to the Contingent fund the Amt thus paid, it will greatly aid the public service, for, as I advised you in mine of the 22^d Ult^o that this fund appropriated in 1839 from circumstances therein named had been exhausted.

I have the honor to be
Very respectfully,
Your O^bdt Serv^t

Everingly
n

Mo^r. H. Wheeler
Superintendent

Wm^l L. Woodbury
Sec^y Treasury
Washington City.

Jan 28
Wheeler

Mr. Wheeler was not authorized
to pay any portion of the expense
for enclosing the grounds of the
Branch Office at Charlotte out
of the Contingent fund - there
was a special appropriation for
that order of \$7000 - I have
contract to complete it for \$5500 by
J.M. Gable - In addition to the base
of \$1500 ^{on my W. supplies} there has been disbursed in
this account \$720 out of the
Contingent fund by Mr. Wheeler -
this means explanation -

And that explaining
I return such a reply as
the case seems to
require.

W

N 392 Feb 25

W. H. Keen

170
N. S. Branch Mint
Charlotte N.C. 2 March 1840

Sir

I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of yours of the 26 ulto. rec^d by yesterday's mail, and I take much satisfaction in answering the query why "\$720. for a stone Wall and pavement for this Mint was spent out of the Contingent fund," as I advised you in mine of 18 ulto.

There was appropriated by Act of 3 March 1837, (page 55 of Acts of Congress) for inclosing grounds, repairing Building on lot and for Out Houses \$7,000.

By your instructions Mr. McComb made a Contract under this Act for 5,500.

There was expended for the same items, by me 1,500 \$7,000.

I was compelled for the furtherance of the public work and operations of the Mint to have in addition for what Mr. McComb had contracted for, a very extensive Shed erected for the purpose of holding Wood for the Steam Engine; a Carpenter Shop; partitions for Coal for the furnaces; Platform in Blacksmith Shop, and other needful buildings. The important ones of which I held full and due consultation with the Director of the Mint at Phil^a; which expenditures were made with economy, and the work executed with fidelity, and which amounted to the balance of the appropriation. The vouchers for these expenditures have been examined and allowed at your Department & are to be found in the papers for the Quarter ending 30th Sept 1838. (3 Quarters 1838)

I therefore was agreeably surprised when your letter of the 7 ulto advised me that there was a balance (near \$500) remaining of this appropriation.

A contract had been previously made for a pavement and stone Wall in front and around the Mint with the advice of the Director

which was and still is in my opinion not only necessary for the security and appearance of the Mint, but a very proper charge on the Contingent fund of the same.

I did not consider "this a payment beyond the amount appropriated by Congress for enclosing the grounds". But as you advised me in yours of the 7th ulto that a balance of this appropriation was unexpended and requested "to know if any portion would be required to complete any contract in relation to said enclosure", I replied in mine of the 18th ulto "that there was nothing due on any contract in relation to said enclosure" but that as I was without funds, from the causes explained to you in mine of 22 Jan^y last; this balance might be properly placed to the credit of the Contingent fund of this Mint. It now turns out that no balance remains. Supposing that this was the case, is the reason why I made the suggestion which I did in mine of the 18th ulto.

Very respectfully,
I am your Obedt. Serv^t

Thos. H. Whelan
Superintendent

Hon^{ble} S. Woodbury
Sec: Treasury
Washington City

2,500
2,1562.58
1560
437.42
7000.00

M. 1

173

Mint of the United States,
Jan. 2, 1841.

Sir,

I take the liberty of sending to you, by the present mails, a box containing one pair of Eagles dies, - directed on the inner envelope to the Superintendent of New Orleans Branch Mint, to be forwarded, as usual, under your frank.

Very respectfully,

your faithful servant,

R. M. Patterson,
Director

To,

Hon. Levi Woodbury,
Secretary of Treasury. }

clerk of the
W

12 March
Wheat

M. 2

174

Mint of the United States.
Jan. 20th, 1841.

Sir,

I send to the President, by the present mail, my annual report for 1840, a copy of which is enclosed, — but without the accompanying titles, as these will of course be placed in your hands. You will observe that I again introduce the subject of the overvaluation of foreign gold coins, and I do so in the hope that you will give your influence toward the removal of this anomaly. In my judgment, it would be the true policy of the government, to make the Spanish and Spanish-American dollars alone, of all foreign coins, a legal tender. They are widely spread over the country, are of the full average value of our own dollar, and correspond with our money of account. The fractions of this dollar are very deficient in weight and value, and the eighths and sixteenths seem to perpetuate a confusion between the prices of articles and our decimal system, — an evil unhappily legalized by the post-office charges.

I have also taken the liberty to call attention, in my report, to the private coinage of gold carried on in North Carolina.

Very respectfully,
Your faithful servant,
R. M. Patterson,
(Director.)

Wm Lewis Woodbury, }
Sec. of Treasury. }

With Mr. McKeen
proper members for
the B. & C. community
this of meeting spent
attention to the

largest of paringulacins
& then being in tender -
It is desired for
to submit to the committee
of the Congress should contain
the most to be made a
should not be questioned
medals from the public
desire in the person -
in order to accumulate them
under my wish to person

them - but not being
them to be sold only
per enough to cover
the actual expense
in studying them
W

M 319 Jan 22
W Keen

(Copy)
13

175-

Mint of the United States,
Philad^a Jan^y 20th 1841.

Sir,

I have the honor to present, as the annual report required of me by law, the following statement of the operations of the Mint and its Branches during the past year.

The Coinage executed at the Mint, in 1840, amounted to \$2,260,667, - Comprising \$1,207,437, - in gold, \$1,028,603, - in Silver, and \$24,627, in Copper coins, and composed of 7,053,074 pieces. (Statement A.)

The deposits of gold within the year amounted to \$1,201,998, of which \$176,766. was derived from the mines of the United States. (Statements B. and C.)

The deposits of Silver amounted to \$1,033,070, and were derived principally from Mexico. (Statement D.)

By successive improvements in the machinery and processes of the Mint, introduced during the last few years, its means for executing a large amount of Coinage have been greatly increased, and it is matter of regret that, in consequence of the diminished supply of bullion, these means have ^{been} of late, so inadequately employed. The Mint could readily have coined twelve millions in the past year, instead of little more than two and a quarter, without any considerable advance in its expenses.

At the close of the year the public funds, in

in our vaults, under the law authorizing deposits with the Mint for the purchase of metals for coinage, and for securing prompt payments to depositors, amounted to \$389,198.25, in gold and silver. The amount withdrawn during the year, on Treasury drafts, was \$153,916.76, and the amount added \$26,476.97.

At the New Orleans Branch Mint, the coinage for 1840 amounted to \$915,600, comprising \$217,500 in gold, and \$698,100 in silver coins, and composed of 3,446,900 pieces. (Statement E.)

The deposits for coinage during the year amounted to \$164,929 in gold, and \$666,676 in silver. (Statement F.)

It gives me great satisfaction to state that this Branch of the Mint has escaped, during the last season, the disasters which have before so seriously interfered with its efficiency. Its operations have gone on throughout the year; and, as it appears to have made prompt and full returns for all the bullion brought to it for coinage, it must be considered as having ^{successfully} its functions successfully.

The Branch Mint at Charlotte received, during the year, deposits of gold to the value of \$124,726, exclusive of a few small deposits, at the end of the year, of which the value has not been reported. The amount of its coinage was \$127,055, composed of 18,994 half Eagles, and 12,834 quarter Eagles. (Statement G. & H.)

The Branch Mint at Dahlonega received, during the year, deposits of gold to the value of \$121,858; and its Coinage amounted to \$123,310, composed of 22,896 half Eagles, and 3,532 Quarter Eagles. (Statements, C. & F.)

The deposits at these Mints do not differ materially from those of the ~~two~~ preceding years, nor does there appear, from ~~other~~ evidence, to have been any considerable change, during this period, in the production of gold from the mines of the United States.

There are two circumstances which serve to diminish the amount of gold coinage at our Mints, and which seem to me to call for legislative interference. One of these is the private coinage known to be carried on in the neighborhood of the mines to a considerable extent. Assays, repeatedly made at the Mint, show that the coins thus fabricated are below the nominal value marked upon them. Yet they circulate freely at this value, and therefore it must be more advantageous to the miner to carry his bullion to the private, than to the public Mints. It seems strange that the privilege of coining Copper should be carefully confined by law to the general government, while that of coining gold and Silver, though withheld from the States, is freely permitted to individuals, with the single restriction that they must not imitate the coinage established by law.

The second circumstance adverted to is the overvaluation given to the gold in foreign coins, by the

act of June 28th 1834. This act supposes the gold coins of Great Britain, Portugal, and Brazil to be 22 carats, (corresponding to $916\frac{2}{3}$ thousandths,) fine, an assumption which is not confirmed by our assays. The British gold does not exceed $915\frac{1}{2}$ thousandths, and is not received at the Mint of France at more than 915. The gold coins of Portugal and Brazil vary from $913\frac{1}{2}$ to $914\frac{1}{2}$. All these coins, therefore, are virtually overvalued by the law; for what it states as a condition, is received and acted upon by the public as a fact. Indeed, even if the coins in question were of the assumed standard they would still be rated too high, because our own standard was raised, by the act of Jan'y. 18th, 1837, from 899.225 to 900. — I have before invited attention to this subject in my annual reports, and have respectfully recommended, as I again do, that the act in question be repealed. This act is unnecessary, because the Mints of the United States are abundantly sufficient for all the gold coinage required for circulation; — it is inconvenient, because the foreign coins which it makes a legal tender do not correspond in value and denomination with our money of account; — and it is erroneous and impolitic, because it stamps a higher value upon foreign gold than upon our own.

I have the honor to be, Sir,
With great respect,

Your faithful servant,
P. M. PATTERSON,
Director of the Mint.

To the President
of the United States.

(Private.)

M (4)

176

Minist of the United States,
Jan. 21, 1840.

Sir,

I send herewith our official request for the appointment of the Additional Commissioners for our approaching Annual Assay, and I take the liberty of suggesting the names of Prof. N. Chapman, and William M. Alvaine, Esq., of this City, and Prof. Joseph Henry of Princeton.

Professors Chapman & Henry, are men, as you know, of great scientific eminence, and are both, I believe, personally known to the President. Mr. McAlvaine was formerly Cashier of the Bank of the United States, and is held in universal regard for his talent and high personal Character. Mess. Henry & McAlvaine are of the ballionist school of political economy.

Very respectfully,

Your faithful servant,
R. M. Patterson,

To,

Hon. Levi Woodbury, }
Secretary of Treasury.

M 5

177

Mint of the United States,
Jan. 21, 1841.

Sir,

As the Annual Assay is to be made at the Mint on the 8th of next month, I have the honor respectfully to request that you will ask the attention of the President of the United States to the appointment of the additional Commissioners provided for in the 32'd Section of the Act of Jan. 18, 1837.

Very respectfully,
your faithful servant,
R. M. Patterson,
(Director.)

To

Hon. Levi Woodbury,
Secretary of the Treasury.

I approve of the appointment
of Professor W. Chapman & Henry
and of Wm. McKeane Esq
MWB

M-6

178

Mint of the United States,
Jan. 23, 1841.

Sir,

I send, herewith, a statement of
the operations of the Branch Mints in the month
of December.

Very respectfully,

your faithful servant,

R. M. Patterson,

(Director.)

(To)

Am. Levi Woodbury,
Secretary of Treasury. }

M 7

179

Mint of the United States,
Jan. 25, 1841.

Sir,

I have to acknowledge the receipt of coins for the Annual Assay, from the Branch Mints, forwarded to me under your frank, as follows:

From Dahlonega, four packages, as advised in your letters of the 5th, 11th, 13th, & 23'd inst. - From Charlotte, one box, as advised in your letter of the 18th. - From New Orleans, three boxes, as advised in your letters of the 18th, & 23'd inst. - All the coins have been received from Charlotte & Dahlonega: two more boxes, expected from New Orleans, will be acknowledged when received. -

Very respectfully,

your faithful servant,
H. M. Patterson,
(Director.)

To/

Hon. Levi Woodbury, }
Secretary of Treasury. }

See if right
to

M 18

180

Mint of the United States,
Jan. 30, 1841.

Sir,

Your favor of the 25th inst., was duly received, with the accompanying letters of appointment to Prof. N. Chapman, Wm. M. Swaine, Esq., and Prof. Joseph Henry, as Commissioners to attend the next annual assay at the Mint. These letters were sent to the gentlemen named, and I have now the pleasure to state that they have all consented to perform the duty asked of them.

Very respectfully,
your faithful servant,
R. M. Patterson,
Director.

To/

Mr. Levi Woodbury,
Secretary of Treasury. }

M 9

181

Mint of the United States,
Jan. 30, 1841.

Sir,

I have to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 25th, and of the two boxes of coins, from New Orleans, named therein. The coins for the Annual Assay, from the Branch Mints, are now all received.

I take the liberty of sending to you, by the present mail, a box of dies directed on the inner envelope to the Superintendent of New Orleans Branch Mint, to be forwarded under your frank. Another will be sent by the mail of Monday.

Very respectfully,

your faithful servant,
R. M. Patterson,
(Director.)

To/

Hon. Levi Woodbury,
Secretary of Treasury.

M (10)

182

Mint of the United States,
Feb. 2, 1841.

Sir,

I take the liberty of sending to you, by
the present mail, a box of dies directed on the inner
envelope to the Superintendent of Dahlonega Branch
Mint, to be forwarded under your frank. Another
box will be sent to-morrow.

Very respectfully,

your faithful servant
H. W. Patterson,
(Director)

To/

Mr. Levi Woodbury,
Secretary of Treasury. }

M (11)

183

Mint of the United States.
Feb. 9th, 1841.

Sir,

The annual assay of the gold and silver coins reserved at the Mint and its Branches during the last year, was held at the Mint yesterday, and I have the honor to send herewith a copy of the report made by the Commissioners.

Very respectfully,
Your faithful Servant,
P. M. Patterson,

Set m. m. Lears
com. & report on the
w
(Director.)

To
Hon. Levi Woodbury,
Secy of the Treasury.

Feb 4
Wear

M. 12
Copy

184

At a meeting of the Commissioners appointed under the 32^d section of the Act entitled "An act, supplementary to an act, entitled an act establishing a mint, and regulating the coins of the United States", passed the 18th of January, 1837, - held at the Mint of the United States on Monday, the 8th day of February, 1841, for the purpose of making the Annual trial of the pieces of gold and silver coin reserved at the Mint at Philadelphia and its Branches, - present:

Hon. Joseph Hopkinson, Judge of the Dist. Court of the U. States, for the Eastern Dist. of Penn^a.

Calvin Blythe, Collector of the Port of Philadelphia.

John M. Read, Attorney of the U. States, for the Eastern District of Pennsylvania.

Professor Nathaniel Chapman, } Commissioners de-
William M. Stranice, Esq., } signated by the
Professor Joseph Henry, } President.

Also present:

The Director,

The Melter & Refiner,

The Treasurer,

The Assayer,

The Chief Coiner,

The Engraver.

The Commissioners proceeded to examine and count

the pieces of gold coins, and pieces of silver coins, heretofore indiscriminately taken by the Treasurer, in the presence of the Assayer, and deposited and kept under the joint care of the Treasurer and Assayer, agreeably to the provisions of the 27th Sect. of the said Act, and by them presented for trial, also the parcels of coin from the Branch Mints transmitted under seal to the Director of the Mint at Philadelphia agreeably to the provisions of the 4th section of "An Act to establish Branches of the Mint of the United States", and by him presented for trial, said coins being of the following descriptions, - viz:

Gold pieces from the Mints of Charlotte, North Carolina, - and of Dahlonega, Georgia, - and gold & silver pieces from the Mint at New Orleans, Louisiana.

The number of pieces was compared with the entries in the books kept for that purpose, and were found in every instance to correspond.

The Commissioners then, with the assent of the officers of the Mint, directed that each parcel of coins should be weighed, when it was found that the gold pieces from the Mint of Philadelphia weighed 46.907 ounces, the legal weight being 46.897 ounces, - so that they exceeded the legal standard, by one hundredth of an ounce in forty six $\frac{897}{1000}$ ounces.

The silver pieces from the same Mint weighed 96.087 ounces, the legal weight being 96.078 ounces, - so

that they exceeded the legal standard, by nine thousandths of an ounce in Ninety-six $\frac{78}{1000}$ ounces.

The gold pieces, from the Branch Mint at Charlotte, weighed 11.827 ounces, the legal weight being 11.825 ounces, - so that they exceeded the legal standard, by two thousandths of an ounce in Eleven $\frac{825}{1000}$ ounces.

The gold pieces from the Branch Mint at Dahlen-ego weighed 13.030 ounces, the legal weight being 13.034 ounces, - so that they fell short of the legal standard by four thousandths of an ounce in Thirteen $\frac{34}{1000}$ ounces.

The gold pieces from the Branch Mint at New Orleans weighed 11.825 ounces, - being exactly of the legal weight.

The silver pieces from the Branch Mint at New Orleans weighed 121.262 ounces, the legal weight being 121.258, - so that they exceeded the legal standard by four thousandths of an ounce, in One hundred & twenty one $\frac{258}{1000}$ ounces. -

The Commissioners then, with the assent of the Officers of the Mint, directed that the pieces of gold and silver coins, as aforesaid, should be assayed; and the same being done, it was found that the gold pieces from the Mint of Philadelphia were of the fineness of 899.5, - being therefore five tenths of one thousandth below the legal standard: - and the silver pieces from the same Mint were of the fineness of 899.7, - being therefore

three tenths of one thousandth below the legal standard:

That the Gold pieces from the Branch Mint at Charlotte were of the fineness of 900.2, - being therefore two tenths of one thousandth above the legal standard.

That the Gold pieces from the Branch Mint at Dahlonega were of the fineness of 900.3, - being therefore three tenths of one thousandth above the legal standard:

That the Gold pieces from the Branch Mint at New Orleans were of the fineness of 901.3, - being therefore one thousandth, and three tenths of one thousandth above the legal standard: That the Silver pieces from the same Branch Mint were of the fineness of 898.2, - being therefore one thousandth and eight tenths of one thousandth below the legal standard.

The Commissioners therefore approve the gold coins issued at the Mint of Philadelphia, and the Branches at Charlotte, Dahlonega, and New Orleans, and the Silver coins issued at the Mint of Philadelphia, and the Branch at New Orleans, from the first day of January, 1840, to the 31st day of December, 1840, both inclusive.

And the Commissioners having also examined the standard weights ordinarily employed in the transactions of the Mint at Philadelphia, and their accuracy being tested in their

Contd (12)

presence, they were found to be regulated according to the standard established by law.

Signed / Jos. Hopkinson,
Calvin Relythe,
John M. Read,
A. Chapman,
W. M. Alvaine,
Joseph Henry,
R. M. Patterson,
Director.

M 13

185

Mint of the United States,
Feb. 10, 1841.

Sir,

The letter to you, of the 6th inst., from C.C. Lee, Esq., respecting the medal voted to Major Henry Lee, in 1779, and which you referred to me for information, has been duly received, and I have now to present to you the following statement.

The dies for Gen. Lee's medal were cut, about the year 1791, by J. Wright, an artist who worked at that time for the Mint. The head die is now in our possession, and I send you an impression taken from it in fusible alloy, from which you will see that the bust, though not a superior work of art, is by no means "execrable". The die, however, is not in a condition for striking a medal in gold, if one should be required. It appears to have cracked in hardening, and to have been also injured in an attempt to make a hub from it. The reverse die is not in existence, and according to the description given by Dr. Mease, contained nothing more than an inscription.

Our former venerable Chief Coiner, Mr. Eckfeldt, to whom we refer for all Mint reminiscences,

ces, is under the impression that no gold medal was ever struck from these dies, and the state of the die now before me goes far to confirm this impression.

An original likeness of Col. Henry Lee, taken by C. M. Peale, is now in the collection of the Philadelphia Museum, and its resemblance to the head on the die, is sufficiently apparent. From these authorities a new medal might be prepared, should an appropriation for the purpose be made by Congress.

The plan which I would recommend is to have a medallion head modelled in clay, - cast in iron, - and then cut in steel by the portrait-lathe at the Mint. A medal of Franklin, the obverse die of which was formed by this process, and of which I sent you a copy, is, in my judgment, the best head ever struck at the Mint.

The appropriation necessary for making, in this way, the gold medal voted to Gen. Henry Lee, I estimate at \$750, viz: \$500 for the dies, and \$250 for the gold, collar, case, &c. The appropriation for the medal voted to Col. Croghan, (the last, I think, of this class,) was \$2,050, viz, \$1800 for the dies, + \$250 for the rest. The reverse, indeed, exhibited a battle scene, instead

of a simple legend, but it was stipulated that
if the reverse die should break an additional
charge of \$600 should be made.

I return to you Mr. Lee's letter.

Very respectfully,

your faithful servant,
R. M. Patterson,
(Director.)

To/

Hon. Levi Woodbury, }
Secretary of Treasury. }

Reply to Mr. Carter
I enclose a copy
of this letter
W

14
 Minst of the United States,
 Feb. 10, 1841.

Sir,

I have the honor to submit the following
 report of the fineness, and value by weight, of
 certain gold and silver coins specified in the acts
 of Congress of April 10, 1806, and June 28, 1834.

Gold Coins.

	Fineness in thousandths.	Value per dw't.
Great Britain, Sovereigns	915.5	Cts 94.62
France, pieces of 40 & 20 francs	899.	92.92
Spain, doubloons & parts	866.	89.51
Mexico, do.	866.	89.51
Peru, do.	868.	89.71
Chili, do.	868	89.71
Colombia, doubloons of Bogota	870	89.92
do. , do. of Popoyan	858	88.68
New Grenada, doubloons 1837-38	871-	90.02
Bolivia, do.	870	89.92
Central America, do.	830	85.79
La Plata, do.	815-	84.24
Portugal, johannes & half	914	94.46
do. , Crown (of 5,000 reis and half, since 1838	914	94.46
Brazil, piece of 6,400 reis, of 1838,	914	94.46

Silver Coins.	Fineness in thousandths	Value per oz.
Spain, dollar of the Peninsula	900	Cts. 116.36
Do., pillar-dollar of Spanish America	898	116.10
France, Crowns, (ceased to be coined in 1793,)	909	117.53
Do., five-franc piece	900	116.36
Mexico, average of various Mints, and in the proportion usually presented here,	897	115.97
Peru, and North & South Peru, dollar	901	116.49
Chili, dollar	906	117.13
Central America, dollar	896	115.84
Brazil, restamped dollar of 960 reis	898	116.10

The above report corresponds with my last,
presented April 2, 1840, - no change having since
occurred.

Very respectfully,

your faithful servant,

R. M. Patterson,
(Director.)

To/

Hon. Levi Woodbury,
Secretary of Treasury.

M

15

187

Mint of the United States.

Feb. 18, 1841.

Sir,

I take the liberty of sending to you, by the present mail, a box of dies, directed in the inner envelope to the Superintendent of Charlotte Branch Mint, to be forwarded as heretofore under your frank. - Another box, for the same Mint, will be sent to-morrow.

Very respectfully,

Your faithful servant,

R. M. Patterson,

Director.

To/

Hon. Levi Woodbury,
Secretary of Treasury.

M (16)

188

Mint of the United States.
Feb. 18th, 1841.

Sir,

After the payment of the bullion drafts of which we have notice, our coinage account will stand as follows:—

On hand in Silver Coins	\$ 49,436.
" " gold "	57,872.97

The remainder of the bullion, amounting to \$76,145.90 is in its transit through the various operations of the Mint, and the amount is as low as, under ordinary circumstances, it can be reduced, and much lower than when the Mint is fully supplied with bullion for coinage.

I have deemed it important to lay before you the above statement.

Very respectfully,
Your faithful servant,
R. W. Patterson,
Director.

To
Hon. Levi Woodbury,
Secretary of the Treasury.

N 17

189

Mint of the United States,
Oct. 24, 1841.

Sir,

I have the honor to send, herewith, a
Statement of the operations of the Branch Mints
in January.

Very respectfully,

Your faithful servant,

R. M. Patterson
Director.

To/

Hon. Levi Woodbury,

Secretary of the Treasury. }

Wells

Ms

18

190

Mint of the United States,
March 9, 1841.

Sir,

I take the liberty of sending to you, by the present mail, a box of dies, directed, on the inner envelope, to the Superintendent of the Dahlonega Branch Mint; and I have respectfully to request that it may be forwarded under your frank, according to the practice heretofore pursued whenever it has been necessary for me to send such packages to the Branch Mints.

Very respectfully,

Your faithful servant,

R. M. Patterson,
Director.

To/

Hon. Thomas Ewing,
Secretary of the Treasury.

Mr

19

191

McK

Mint of the United States,
March 23^d, 1841.

Sir,

I take the liberty of sending to you,
by the present mail, a box of dies, directed, on the
inner envelope, to the Superintendent of New Or-
leans Branch Mint, to be forwarded, as heretofore,
under your frank.

A second box will be sent by to-morrow's mail.

Very respectfully,

your faithful servant,

R. M. Patterson,
(Director.)

To/

Hon. Thomas Ewing,
Secretary of the Treasury. }

MSK

M (20)



192

Mint of the United States
March 24th, 1841.

Sir,

I have the honor to send you, herewith,
a statement of the deposits and coinage
at the Mint and Branches, for the month
of February. It was delayed till this time,
in consequence of my not receiving the report
from the New Orleans Mint until yesterday.

The late Secretary of the Treasury
required a monthly statement only for the
Branch Mints, but I have thought it
would be more satisfactory to you to
include all the Mints.

Now, since I have been connected with
the establishment, could there have been
presented so meagre an exhibition, — the
whole amount of deposits for coinage being
but \$67,739, of which \$57,950 was at
this mint. You will observe that no de-
posit was made at New Orleans.

There was no coinage at the Charlotte
Mint, in consequence of the breaking of one
of their dies.

Very respectfully,
Your faithful servant,

Wm. Thomas Ewing, }
Secretary of the Treasury. } P. M. Patterson,
Director.

M (21)

193

Minist of the United States.
March 31st, 1841.

Sir,
I have taken the liberty to send to
you, by the present mail, a box containing
a pair of half-dime dies, and directed,
on the inner envelope, to the Superintendent
of the Branch Mint at New Orleans, to
whom I beg that it may be forwarded,
under your frank, as directed.

Very respectfully,
Your faithful servant,
R. M. Patterson,
Director.

To/ Hon. Thomas Ewing,
Secretary of the Treasury.

Recd

M 22

194

Mint of the United States.
April 1st, 1841.

Sir,

I have taken the liberty to send
you, by the present mail, a box of dies
for the New Orleans Mint, properly direct-
ed on the inner envelope, - to be forward-
ed under your frank, as heretofore.

Very respectfully,

Your faithful servant,

P. M. Patterson,
(Director.)

To / Hon. Thomas Ewing,
Secretary of the Treasury.

23

195

Mint of the United States,
April 5, 1841.

Sir,

I take the liberty of sending to you,
by the present mail, a box of dies, directed,
on the inner envelope, to the Superintendent of
the Branch Mint at New Orleans, to be for-
warded, as heretofore, under your frank.
Another box will be sent to-morrow.

Very respectfully,

your faithful servant,

A. M. Patterson,

Director.

To,

Hon. Thomas Erving,

Secretary of Treasury. }

M 24

Mint of the United States,
April 12, 1841.

Sir,

I take the liberty to send to you,
by the present mail, a box of dies, directed,
on the inner envelope, to the Superintendent of
the Branch Mint at Dahlonega, to be for-
warded, as heretofore, under your frank.

A box will be sent to-morrow, directed to
the Superintendent of N. Orleans Branch Mint,

Very respectfully,

your faithful servant,
R. M. Patterson.
(Director)

To/ Hon. Thomas Ewing,
Secretary of Treasury. }

W 25 Philad^a April 14th 1841
Hon Daniel Webster

Dear Sir

as one of the guardians

of the Public weal I desire to call your attention to the contents of the enclosed letter

It is written by a respectable citizen of this City and alludes to proceedings, which you will agree with me ought to be investigated

Mr Patterson the present ^{officer} presiding of the U. S. Mint has been for a long period, ~~long~~ an enthusiastic antagonist of whigs & whig measures, & is now endeavoring to clasp himself amongst them, with a view of retaining his office I trust in that he will be disappointed and I am sure that in saying so the sentiments of a very large majority of the most devoted of our fellow Laborers are expressed.

I have on several occasions had the pleasure to meet with you, but may not be recollecting, my motives I hope may not be misunderstood they are designed to contribute to the success and permanency of the administration

very truly &c &c

R. A. Parrish

197
Philad^a April 14th 1841
Robert A. Parrish Esq

Sir

If I am correctly informed, you along with others of that party to which it is my pride to have belonged for the last twelve years are solicitous to expose any and all the malversations or abuses that have obtained among the locofoco incumbents - great and small - during this period of our national humiliation.

Permit me, an humble individual not seeking any place, to put within your reach a transaction of one high in place which I think should be visited with exposure and punishment.

In or about the year 1837 it was deemed proper to appoint an assistant engraver to the Mint - the recent enactments of Congress having thrown on that branch of the Mint department an excess of labour rendering the exertions of one engraver ineffectual for the performance of the duty. An assistant was accordingly appointed with a salary of \$1500 per annum or rather the law positively provided that his salary should not exceed that sum. The chief engraver, the late esteemed Wm. Kneass, remonstrated to the then and now director (Dr. Patterson) that the assistant was rated higher in emolument than himself (the principal). By representation in the proper quarter, it was provided by law that the chief engraver should receive a compensation of 2000 dollars, still retaining the enactment that the assistant should not receive beyond \$1500. So far the law was positive.

Now mark its administration. The director by

looking on the timidity of Mr. Kneass, (known to be a
whig, in an institution now nearly covered with
Locofocoism) induced him to part with a portion of
his proper salary and compensation, after receipting
for the same, to the benefit of the Assistant, who was
precluded by law from receiving more than 1500 dollars.

This is the naked statement of facts — Now the
application — If an officer — head of a department
can divert the salary, or any part of it, of one of his
Subordinates for the benefit of another what is to
prevent him from doing the same thing for his own
benefit — or by what testimony can he show that it
has not already been done?

Do you want the Proof of the above Statement.
Enquire in the Treasury Department for a letter ad-
dressed to W. Woodbury, by the Widow of Wm Kneass
dated Oct. 5. 1840, and answered some time afterwards
and for another letter dated Dec. 17. 1840, to which
no answer was received.

Dr. Patterson has endeavoured in his reply
to the charge to exonerate himself from the transaction
in vain. I can prove judicially — juridically — that
he himself acknowledged the fact.

I know not whether you recognise my name
— personally you know me.

Yours

Obert Scott.

Saml B. Warner
45 Carpenter St
near N. Arcade

W 20

198

Mint of the United States,
April 24, 1841.

Sir,

I have the honor to send you, herewith,
the monthly statement of the operations of the
Mint & Branches for the month of March. It
was delayed till this time, in consequence of the
late reception of the reports from the New-
Orleans and Dahlonega Mints.

Very respectfully,
your faithful servant,
R. W. Patterson,
(Director.)

To,

Mrs. Thomas Ewing, }
Secretary of Treasury.

M 27

199

Mint of the United States.
April 30th, 1841.

Sir,
I have had the honor to receive your letter of the 28th, with the bond of Mr. Paul Rossignol, as Superintendent of the Branch Mint at Dahlouga, which I now return to you, with the certificate, required by law, that it is "to my satisfaction." I have had the opportunity of consulting a gentleman of Dahlouga, as to the standing and means of the several Societies, and he assures me that they are good and sufficient.

Our newly appointed Treasurer, Gov. Ritner, has not yet presented himself at the Mint, nor have I heard from him directly; — there is a report, however, that he is detained by a disease of the eyes.

Very respectfully,

Your faithful servant,
D. M. Patterson,
Director.

To / Hon. Thomas Ewing,
Secretary of the Treasury.

M (28)

200

Mint of the United States,
May 13, 1841.

Sir,

I take the liberty of sending to you, by
the present mail, a box of dies, directed, on the
inner envelope, to the Superintendent of New Orleans
Branch Mint, to be forwarded under your frank.
A second box will be sent to-morrow.

Very respectfully,

Your faithful servant,

A. M. Patterson,
Director.

To/

Hon. Thomas Ewing,
Secretary of Treasury. }

M. 29

201

Mint of the United States,
May 18, 1841.

Sir,

I have the honor to send you, herewith,
the statement of the operations of the Mint
and Branches, in the month of April.

Very respectfully,
your faithful servant,

R. M. Patterson,
(Director.)

To/ Hon. Thomas Ewing, }
Secretary of Treasury. }

Min^{tr} of the United States,
June 11, 1841.

Sir,

I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 9th inst., transmitting the correspondence of the Superintendent and Master & Refiner of the New Orleans Mint, on the subject of the introduction of Slave labor into that Mint, and asking my opinion in relation to this matter.

I reply, without hesitation, that I think the proposal of Dr. Riddell to employ Slaves, as workmen in the Mint, very objectionable, and I will state the following among other reasons, for my opinion.

First; - as it is out of the question that all the work can be entrusted to Slaves, their partial introduction would bring the white and black races together, either on such terms of equality as are revolting and impracticable in the Southern States, or so as to confine the whites to the mere office of overseers, and thus deprive the institution of their personal labor.

Second; - the Blacks being a degraded and ignorant race, are not as worthy of trust as the whites, and it would therefore be dangerous to place reliance on their honesty. This, indeed, is not proposed by Dr. Riddell, who places his dependence upon

Clothes without pockets, and other precautions. I have, I confess, little faith in devices of this kind. The slaves who work in the Diamond mines of Brazil, though kept naked, still find means of securing the valuable gems about their persons.

Third. One of the most important means of securing the fidelity of men in the Mint, is the system which necessarily exists among them of mutual supervision. When men are constantly working together, it is almost impossible that one should pilfer without being seen by some of the others sooner or later. Each one is virtually overseer for the rest. But in the system proposed by Dr. Riddell, the foreman alone is overseer, and, besides the objection of less effective vigilance, it may be significantly asked, who is to oversee him. Quis Custodiet Custodem? Not the creatures of his will, - the mere machinery moved by his hand. If they should even detect him, or any other white man about the establishment, in a fraud, their evidence would not be received, - and this fact alone seems to me to be a sufficient objection to the proposed measure.

Fourth. Mr. Kennedy remarks that there is no provision, either in the law or instructions relative to the Mint, opposed to the measure brought forward by Dr. Riddell. This is true; because the case was not foreseen. There is, however, in another branch of the government, a rule which

bears very directly upon the question. I allude to the regulation of the Post-Office Department which forbids the employment of Slaves, or even of free blacks, as drivers of the Mail Coaches, or Carriers of the Mail.

The last reason which I deem it necessary to mention, is the unnecessary shock which the proposed measure would give to both the parties into which our country is divided on the subject of Slavery. The Slave-holders would consider it a degradation to employ Slaves along with white men, in the important and responsible operations of a Mint; and the Anti-slavery party consider the hiring of Slaves a sin inferior only to that of owning them.

On the whole, then, I cannot approve of the employment of Slaves, as workmen at the Mints. The saving estimated by Dr. Riddell is very trifling, even if it should be realized, which I doubt. The remark made in Dr. Riddell's letter, that he has heard that Slaves are employed at the Dahlonega Mint, gave me great astonishment. I am confident that it is a mistake; but I have written, without delay, to make the inquiry. I think it, indeed, not improbable that Slaves may have been employed for some temporary manual service, but

it cannot be that they have been received into
the establishment as workmen.

Very respectfully,

Your faithful servant,

R. M. Patterson,
Director.

To/ Hon. Thomas Ewing, }
Secretary of Treasury. }

P.S. Return the letters of Mr. Kennedy
and Dr. Riddell.

M. 335 - June 12

McKean

M 31

203

Treasury of the United States,
June 16, 1841.

Sir,

I have the honor to state that William Findlay, Esq., the late Treasurer of the Mint, transferred, yesterday, into the hands of the new Treasurer, Joseph Ritner, Esq., all the funds, books, &c., in his official possession. The receipts are sent to the Comptroller of the Treasury, according to his instructions, and the accounts, settled up to the 15th inclusive, are sent to the First Auditor. I attended, myself, to the examination of the funds transferred, so as to be satisfied that they corresponded with the receipts given by Gov. Ritner, and with the balances reported on the books. These balances, in the hands of the Treasurer, were as follows:

On the Bullion Account,	\$65,299.62
On the Ordinary Account,	3,880.02
On the Copper Account, (in Spanish Copper coins,)	7,257.30
In the Subtreasury. — General Fund,	94,261.56
" Post Office Fund,	16,386.14
" Contingent Funds,	8.51
In all	\$187,093.15.

Very respectfully,

your faithful servant,

(S)

Amos Thomas Ewing,
Secretary of Treasury.

N. M. Patterson,
Director.

M 32

204

Mint of the United States,
June 17, 1841.

Sir,

I have the honor to present to you, herewith, a Statement of the operations of the Mint and Branches, in the month of May.

Very respectfully,

Your faithful servant,

R. M. Patterson,
Director.

To, Hon. Thomas Ewing,
Secretary of Treasury. }

33

205-

Mint of the United States,
June 18, 1841.

Sir,

I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 16th inst., with the enclosures, (which I return,) on the subject of an unusual delay in making payments for depositors at the Dublonego Mint.

This difficulty has arisen from a measure which the Superintendent has been led to adopt, of keeping \$10,000 of the public deposits always in coins, ready to answer a Treasury draft. The effect of this course, as to all Mint purposes, is to reduce his government-fund to \$10,000, an amount insufficient for securing, at all times, the prompt payment of deposits. I have written to the Superintendent to advise that he should pay his debts to individual depositors, whenever he has coins on hand, and depend upon sufficient notice being given by the Department, if a draft is to be made upon his public deposits. With this liberty, I am sure that the evil complained of by Mr. Jones will be remedied.

In compliance with the instructions given in your letter of the 14th inst., I have taken the necessary steps for procuring the information

Ym desire with regard to the difficulties at
the Charlotte Mint.

Very respectfully,

Your faithful servant,

R. M. Patterson,

Director.

To/

Mr. Thomas Ewing,

Secretary of Treasury }

James Knowe 30 May

(34)

206

My dear Sir

The new mint regulations are excluding ourselves & troublesome. Heretofore we could get coin for our deposits in a few days now after going 100 miles with a few hundred dw^t of gold we are told at the termination of about one month we may be informed that we can receive coin for our gold & that too when the U.S. has on deposit at the mint \$10,000. This is intolerable & should be corrected for the only remedy it can possibly have must be to throw the miners' claims into the hands of the brokers who will not fail to shave them out of from 5 to 10 p^{ct} of their earnings.

The difficulty grows out of two circumstances first the president or Director of the B^r mint is left uncertain when the Gov^r of the U.S. will withdraw ^{of 25,5 more there on deposit} the \$10,000, & of consequence he must keep it there dead capital. 2^d The government having \$10,000 on deposit at the mint that is called a melting for coinage. ~~There is a~~ deposit 10 or 2 or 3 thousand just after a melting must wait until other deposits are made to the amt of \$10,000. in the mean time the officers enjoy

* There can digne take on fat salaries (or do
their salaries stop while they wait for a melt-
ing? I apprehend they would soon discover they
could melt & coin up than \$10 000 at a time

I say these things are intolerable & to
you we must look for relief. The remedy, ^{is to}
direct that the \$10 000 shall be applic-
ed to the use for which it was intended. To be
advanced on deposits made. or if that cannot be
Withdrawn the \$10 000 & direct the officers to
coin deposits as they come in & if they
cannot learn how to coin less than \$10 000
send us some that can. We understand that
at Washington the present administration is
a working one there can be no objections
to their agents & officers in Georgia profiting by
the example. I beg you save the miners
from the hands of the brokers

I am gentlemen
very respectfully
Yours Obedt Servt
John A. Jones

P.S. Show to the others as you think best

* In the mean time our property is sold by the
Shiff for gold & silver because it is too much
trouble to the officers to coin small amounts

M 35

207

Stof R.

14. June 1841.

Sir,

I enclose you a Letter from a Gentleman in
Goringham of high Standing - I do so, believing
if you deem it necessary - you can give an
order - to meet the Complaint -

Most Respectfully

W. C. Dawson

M (36)

208

Mint of the United States,
Subtreasurer's office, Philad.
June 19th 1841.

Sir,

I have the honor to herewith enclose you a Transcript of my A/c from the 15th inst. including this date, as Treasurer of the Mint, under and in pursuance of the Subtreasury Law.

In consequence of the present quarter terminating in the middle of a week, my next weekly Transcript will be deferred till the end of the quarter, so as to embrace the odd days, agreeably to the Circular of Instructions of the Secretary of the Treasury of July 9th 1840.

I am, very respectfully
Your Ob^t. Servant

Lo^d Pitney

Hon. Thomas Ewing,
Secretary of the Treasury, }
Washington.

W 37 209
Minst of the United States,
June 29, 1841.

Sir,

In the communication which you referred to me from the *Melting & Refiner* of the New Orleans Mint, recommending, ^{the employment of} ~~of~~ slave labor in that institution, he mentions that this was already done at the Dahlonega Mint. In my letter to you of the 11th inst., I state my conviction that this was a mistake. My impression is fully confirmed by a letter of the 19th from the Superintendent, from which the following paragraph is an extract.

Your esteemed favour of the 11th inst. was received this morning, and I hasten to reply to your inquiries respecting slave labour. No slaves are employed in any of the Departments of this Branch Mint. Sometimes one is hired to wash the offices, and then an officer is present while he is performing this duty. In the Winter Season, a slave is now & then hired to cut firewood for the different offices, and on no other occasions do we employ slave labour."

Very respectfully,

Your faithful servant,

R. M. Patterson,
Director.

To/ }
Hon. Thomas Erving,
Secretary of Treasury.

M *38* *210*
Mint of the United States
July 12th. 1841

Sir,

I send, subjoined, applications from two of the Officers of the New Orleans Mint for leave of absence from that establishment, from the middle of August to the middle of October, during which time, it appears, that the operations must be necessarily suspended, in consequence of repairs required in the Melters department. You are aware that very little business of any kind is transacted at New Orleans during that period of the year; and, if the services of the Officers are not required, I think the information which they, - particularly the Coiner, - might derive from a visit to Philadelphia, would be very useful to them. Of course the leave of absence will not be given without the express desire of the Superintendent, and of this I have no doubt; but, in no event, would I feel authorised to act without your approbation, and I therefore write for the purpose of submitting the case to you. Under similar circumstances, leave of absence was granted last summer, with the consent of the Department, to the Melter and the Coiner, but the latter was not able to avail himself of it.

To/
Hon. Thomas Cwing,
Secy. of Treasury.

Very respectfully
Your faithful Servant,
H. M. Patterson, D. M.

Letter from the Treasurer of the New Orleans Mint
to the Director at Philadelphia; June 29th, 1841.

"Dear Sir,

I am anxious to visit Philadelphia this summer for a short time. The Sub-Treasury bill will, in all probability, be repealed, and I shall be relieved from the custody of the public moneys; and, I understand, the flues in the melting department of this Mint are to be rebuilt. This will cause a virtual, if not an actual suspension in that department, and consequently an interruption to the general operations of the establishment. - There will, therefore, be nothing, that I am aware of, in my public duties to require my presence here, and I write to consult you on the propriety of my making a short visit to the north.

I am anxious again to see the operations in your Mint, now that I can better appreciate what I may witness, and benefit from it.

I am, my dear Sir
Your faithful Servt.

(Signed) H. C. Cammack."

Extract of letter from the Coiner of the New Orleans
Mint to the Director at Philadelphia; June 29th, 1841.

"My anxiety to go to the north is indissoluble, and I am not without hope that an opportunity will be offered me to do so. - It appears that the Chimneys of the Melting department require to be rebuilt, and that the operations of this Mint must be virtually suspended during the time of rebuilding. The Melter & Refiner tells me that he will lay the facts before the Superintendent, so as to warrant a suspension for two months or more. But the Superintendent informs me that he does not feel willing to authorize the work to be done without consulting you, and that he will then ask your consent to suspend the Mint from the 15th of August to the 1st of October. Also that he thinks it can be arranged so that I can leave here on the 1st of August, and return on the 15th of October. If so, it will be an invaluable privilege to me, as I should not only be able to render my beloved wife such assistance as she may require, and visit my friends and aged parents after an absence of nine years; but I think I should be able to get much valuable information by a visit to the mother mint, as well as to transact some other business of importance to the Mint and its

branches. I shall be very thankful for your
advice. — Please take notice of this month's work

Yours sincerely
(signed) Philos B. Tyler."

P. 227. Aug 13.

Ms. B. 1. 1. 13.

M 39

211

Mint of the United States.
July 15th, 1841.

Sir,

On the 12th inst., I wrote to consult you as to an application for leave of absence, from the New Orleans Mint, made by the Coiner and the Treasurer, on the ground that necessary repairs in the floor of the melting room would require a suspension of the operations of that establishment for some weeks. I have received, this morning, a letter from the Superintendent, Mr. Kennedy, in which he gives the written opinions of the Assayer, and of an architect, Mr. Gallier, to show that the proposed repairs are indispensable, ^{and} ask my sanction to the suspension which they will render necessary. He at the same time applies for leave of absence for the Coiner, Mr. Tyler. The whole question is thus presented in regular form.

Very respectfully,

Your faithful servant,
R. M. Patterson,
Director.

To
Hon. Thomas Ewing,
Secy of Treasury.

M (40)

212

Cumberland County July 27th 1841.
Honorable J. Ewing.
Sir)

Your letter dated the 24th inst was transmitted to me at this place, where my presence was necessary on account of the late disastrous Hail Storm. My Physician also gave it as his decided opinion that a return to my home for a few days would conduce very much to the perfect restoration of my health, which had been somewhat impaired, previous to my entering upon the discharge of the duties of my appointment.

Permit me to assure you that in taking the step I did, in relation to Mr. Purdy the Clerk of the Subtreasury, I meant no disrespect to you as the Head of the Treasury Department. I was solely influenced by the deepest sense of the responsibility under which I am placed under the Subtreasury Law. The amount of my official bond with the surties to it, I suppose made it incumbent on me to have a clerk who was personally known to me, in whose capacity and integrity I could place the most implicit confidence, and who would also feel a deep solicitude in sustaining my character and reputation.

The reason why I did not soon notify Mr. Purdy that his services would be dispensed with was, that I supposed the Subtreasury Law would be repealed immediately.

and I did not wish for a few weeks only to put another person in his place, but from present appearances I am induced to believe it will be continued in force for some time yet.

In looking over the instructions handed to me by my predecessor, and also over the Subtreasury Law I did not discover anything which induced me to believe that it was expected or necessary that I should apprise the head of the department of the intended change of this Clerk; Now however; I will act in accordance with the intimations contained in your letter and Mr. Purdy will be continued and matters remain as at present or until I hear again from you.

I had intended to place my son Michael in Mr. Purdy's situation, who is by profession an Engineer and is at present and has been nearly one year out of employment, on account of the general prostration of business and pecuniary embarrassments of the times. My son is a married man with a family dependent on him for support. Allow me most respectfully to assure you that I feel the strongest and most anxious solicitude that you would agree to the appointment of my son; The most ample testimony as to his Industry, capacity, and Integrity, can be furnished if required.

On leaving Philadelphia I named Doctor McIntosh, Treasurer and Refiner of the Mint, to Jas. Patterson Director

of the Mint as the most agreeable person to me to be
appointed Treasurer of the Mint during my necessary temporary
absence, under the provisions of the act of Congress of Jan^y
1837.

Please direct to me at Philadelphia.

I am with great Respect your
Most obedient Servant

J. R. Ritner

~~B.~~ I enclose this occasion to add that my predecessor informed
me that he was exonerated from all liability as it regards the
defalcation in the Treasury of the Mint on acct of the abstraction of
funds amounting to near \$10,000 by one of the clerks (~~now~~ ^{now} ~~never~~ ^{never} ~~became~~ ^{became}
he had no control over his appointment, and that it was so decided by
the Treasury department under the late administration. I have reason
to believe that a different opinion is entertained by the present solicitor
of the department at Wash^g. I therefore enclosed a communication
to Mr. Cooper Member of Congress addressed to a friend on the 7th inst
with a view of obtaining from that office a Legal opinion as to
how far the Treasurer would be considered liable for the misfeasance
of clerks over whose appointments he had no control. Owing to the absence
of Mr. Cooper from Wash^g this matter has as yet not been attended to.
If I do not hear soon from the solicitor I will address another com-
munication on this subject to the department. I am informed
Mr. Cooper is still absent from his seat and it is uncertain when
he will return.

J. R.

M 41

213

Mint of the United States,
July 28, 1841.

Sir,

I take the liberty of sending to you, by the present mail, a box of dies, directed, on the inner envelope, to the Superintendent of the Branch Mint at New Orleans, to be forwarded under your frank, as heretofore.

Very respectfully,
your faithful servant,
D. M. Patterson,
(Director.)

To }
Hon. Thomas Ewing,
Secretary of Treasury. }

M

42

214

Mint of the United States,
August 18th, 1841.

Sir,

I have the honor to send you, herewith,
the official Bond and oath of office of Burgess
S. Gailther Esq., the newly appointed Superintende
nt of the Branch Mint at Charlotte. To the
bond I have annexed the certificate, required
by law, that it is "to my satisfaction."

Very respectfully,

Your faithful serv^t,

R. M. Patterson,
Director.

To/

Hon. Thomas Ewing,
Secretary of the Treasury.

Mr. Ke. Mrs. D.

43
Mint of the United States,
Sept. 17th, 1841.

215

Sir,

I presume that, under the Constitution, Gov. Ritner's tenure of office, as Treasurer of the Mint, ceased, in strictness, on the action of the Senate in his case. According to the decision of the Supreme Court, as stated in a general circular from the First Comptroller's Office, issued on the 2d. of Sept. 1839, the liability of the sureties of an officer ceases when his commission expires. The Mint treasury is now, therefore, in a situation which is embarrassing to me, and to which I feel it my duty to call your attention. In ordinary cases, one officer continues to act, until another takes his place; but in all such cases as have yet occurred here, the commission of the first officer remains valid. The present case is peculiar, but I have not known what other course could be pursued than for Gov. Ritner to continue to fulfil the functions of Treasurer, until Major Roach shall be legally inducted into his office. Gov. Ritner is in possession of the Mint funds, - is responsible for them, - and cannot legally transfer them to any one but his successor in office, nor could any other individual legally receive them. I have not

thought it right, therefore, to interrupt the usual course of things in this department of the Mint. I have expected Major Roach to relieve me from all embarrassment, by taking his place among us; but he informs me, this afternoon, that he has not received his commission, and has no instructions from the Department.

[No orders have yet been received from Washington as to the Subtreasury at the Mint. Funds are still in its vaults, - drafts still continue to be drawn upon it, - and a clerk is still necessarily kept employed. This state of things must, of course, continue, until explicit instructions are received from the Department, notwithstanding the repeal of the Subtreasury law. Although I have no official control over the Subtreasury - which is at the Mint, indeed, but not of it, - yet I have thought it right to lay before you the present state of things with regard to it.

Very respectfully,

Your faithful servant,

P. M. Patterson,

(Director)

To/

Hon. Walter Forward,
Secretary of the Treasury.

WCK

M

44

216

Mint of the United States,
Sept. 22, 1841.

Sir,

I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 20th inst.

Major Isaac Roach has to-day received from Joseph Pitner, Esq., all the funds, books, &c., in his official possession, as Treasurer of the Mint. The receipts are sent to the Comptroller of the Treasury, according to instructions from the Department, and the accounts, settled up to this day inclusive, will be sent to-morrow to the First Auditor. I attended myself to the examination of the funds transferred, so as to be satisfied that they correspond with the receipts given by Major Roach, and with the balances reported on the books. These balances, in the hands of the Treasurer, were as follows:

On the Bullion account,	\$36,926.30
On the Ordinary account,	7,905.86
On the Copper account	3,567.63
In Subtreasury: General Fund, \$4,262.64	} 15,976.93
Post Office do. 11,714.29	
In all,	<u>\$64,376.72</u>

You will observe that the Subtreasury account gives a balance differing considerably from that mentioned in your letter, viz: about \$200.- The reason of this discrepancy is manifest from the following statement of the true condition of the Subtreasury at the Mint, at this time.

Amount in General Fund	\$4,262.64
Notes rec ^d . of Drafts unpaid	\$10,043.29
(Two of the Drafts dated Feb. 5, in favor of John Thomas for \$3,000 each, are presumed to have been cancelled, though no notice to this effect has been given to us.) - 6,000.-	
If so, this will leave of Drafts unpaid	4,043.29
Balance undrawn,	<u>\$219.35.</u>

Amount in Post Office Fund	\$11,678.76
Notes of P. O. Warrants unpaid	8,800.89
Balance undrawn,	<u>\$2,877.87</u>

The Custom Houses have ceased to make deposits in the Subtreasury, but the Post Offices still continue to do so. One was made yesterday by the Post Master at Burlington, N. J., under instructions from Mr. Whittlesy, dated the 13th inst. Three notices of Post Office Warrants, amounting together to \$3,163.55, were received to-day.

While this state of things continues, it seems impossible that the Subtreasury Clerk can be dispensed with; and I know not, indeed, how this can be done, without giving rise to confusion, until the balances on hand can be paid over into a new depository, and the accounts of the Office finally closed.

Very respectfully,

Your faithful servant,
R. M. Patterson,
Director.

To

Hon. Walter Forward,
Secretary of Treasury. }

M 45 217
Mint of the United States,
Sept. 23^d, 1841.

Sir,

I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 21st inst., submitting, for my examination and opinion, a communication from certain residents of Sackonega, and another from the Superintendent of the Mint at that place, on the subject of occasional delays in the payment of deposits.

One of the means of removing the difficulty complained of, for which they apply, is that the public deposits at this Mint be increased from 20,000 to 30,000 dollars. This last sum they state to have been "originally appropriated" for the Sackonega Branch. But it is a mistake to suppose that there was ever any appropriation in the case. The sum now at the Mint was deposited by the Treasury Department, either under the proviso in Sect. 12th, of the Act of July, 1836, regulating the deposits of public moneys, which says "that it may be lawful for the President of the United States to direct transfers of the public moneys to be made, from time to time, to the Mint and Branch Mints of the United States, for supplying metal for coinage;" or under the 3rd Sect. of the Mint Act of Jan. 18, 1837, which says "that for the purpose of enabling the Mint to make the returns to

depositors with as little delay as possible, it shall be the duty of the Secretary of the Treasury to keep in the said Mint, when the State of the Treasury will admit thereof, a deposit of such amount of public money, or of bullion procured for the purpose, as he shall judge convenient and necessary, &c." The sum originally deposited with the Dahlonega Branch was \$20,000, and that with the Charlotte Branch \$30,000; both amounts being drawn, in gold, from this Mint. This inequality was justly complained of, and I joined in asking that \$10,000 more should be given to the Dahlonega Mint, if convenient to the Department. It was found inconvenient, however, and has not yet been done. I fear that you will still find it out of your power to make the additional deposit, asked, in gold. Certainly, it could not be drawn from this Mint, where the public deposit is reduced to the lowest admissible amount.

When the Branch Mints went into operation I judged it necessary to require that no coins should be paid from those of Charlotte & Dahlonega, until the ingots of which they were formed had been assayed & reported upon at this Mint. The reason of this regulation was, that in consequence of the Offices of Assayer and Melter being joined in the same individual, there was no independent check upon the accuracy of the ingots and coins. An experience of several years has now satis-

pled me of the competency and accuracy of the Assayers of these two Mints; and I am now willing to withdraw, and shall immediately withdraw, so much of my regulation as requires that the Superintendent, (acting as Treasurer,) shall not deliver the coins made from a melt of ingots, until he receives the report of the test assay made at this Mint.

By this course, one of the principal causes of the delay complained of will be removed, and I think that the gold Mints will have it in their power, by active attention, to make prompt payments to their depositors, without the necessity of an increase in their public deposits.

Very respectfully,

your faithful servant,

R. M. Patterson,
(Director.)

To/

Hon. Walter Forward, }
Secretary of Treasury.

Philadelphia Sept. 1. 1841
 The Treasurer of the Mint }
 acting as Subtreasurer }

218

To Town & Brothers Dr
 May 12. 2 doz Red Tape

" 1 " Lead pencils \$1.50

" 15 Paper, printing & Ruling Weekly Returns 1.25

June 1 200 Quills 9.00

Aug 7. Paper, printing & Ruling Weekly Returns 3.00

Sept. 4. 1840 Recd of the Treasurer 5.00

of the Mint acting as Subtreasurer \$19.75

Town & Brothers

No 1

For Stationery \$19.75

John H Brothers

Sept. 4. /41

Dear

place this
in S Treary
Thea file -

I know not
how it sea-
ched the Dept
McG

Dear

Sept. 21

Dr. The Treasurer of the United States, in account with
for contingencies

1841

September 4 To cash paid Town & Brothers (stationers) per
Bill No 1

\$ 19 75

\$ 19 75

in acc^{mt} with the Treasurer of the Mint, acting as Subtreasurer
Contingent expenses.

Cr.

1841					
March 31	By	Balance of a/c. of this date	\$	8 51	
September 4	"	Cash received per Treasury Draft N ^o 6069 on Treasury warrant N ^o 9258, drawn in my favor, dated August 31. 1841		11 24	
1975			\$	19 75	

Mint of the United States,
Subtreasurer's office, Philad^a.
September 22^d. 1841.

John R. Pitney

W. 46 219
Dakbongda 9th Sept 1841

Gentlemen,

I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 8th Inst. informing me of your intention to address a memorial to the Secretary of the Treasury requesting him to afford such facilities to this Branch Mint as would enable it to pay depositors promptly for their Bullion deposited for Coinage, and for me to inform you, what I think would be required to accomplish your wishes. Government has a deposit of \$20,000 in coin to pay depositors, but this sum is not sufficient, for this reason, The mint receives at present about \$15,000 per month, at the end of which we make two mints, one of the Bullion as received & one of the Clippings and which give about \$10,000 in coin; These mints are accomplished in about 12 days, when a slip from one of the Ingots of each mint, has to be sent to the Mint at Philadelphia, this takes from 10 to 20 days to obtain a return, which brings us to the end of the month before the coin can be paid to the Depositors, and as \$15,000 was paid in the previous month only \$5,000 of the Government deposits were left for this month, therefore all the deposits that are made after the \$5,000 are paid out, have to

wait until I get the return of the \$16,000 and as perhaps \$10,000 have been deposited during the rest of the month, the \$16,000 in coin are reduced to \$6,000 there for the third month most of the depositors have to wait from 5 to 6 weeks as you perceive yourselves. I understand, that the N. C. Branch mint has a deposit of \$30,000 and that a similar sum was appropriated to this Branch, but Govt. Singleton only drew for \$20,000, if we had the other \$10,000 to which we were entitled, we would get along much better & still more so, if we had \$20,000 more besides the \$20,000 we already have, but I believe you had better ask for the \$10,000.

I believe if the Mint could pay depositors promptly for their money, the Deposits would increase. Between the month of November last & the month of May, the House of Puck & Leasing of Augusta, bought \$50,000 in Gold Bullion which I believe they sent to Philadelphia, and within about six weeks, two Deposits from Carroll county were brought here and taken away, because we could not pay the coin. The Deposits here the first of Decr to 22nd Sept are \$95,498.49. The amount ^{in coin} to the 17th Sept is 96,750.

I remain Respectfully
yours &c &c
Paul Rignoe

Deposits

	<u>1840.</u>	<u>1841</u>
January	8791. 49	7307. 71
February	5266. 23	4428. 16
March	5724. 85	6259. 36
April	1850. 50	11061. 19
May	5405. 56	16037. 73
June	8283. 13	13066. 78
July	14078. 22	20831. 36
August	<u>7934. 56.</u>	<u>16506. 20</u> <i>enormous</i>
	57334. 54	\$95498. 49 \$38163. 95

P. I.

If with the present amount of \$20000, we had an additional officer called Matthew Refine the operation of the mint would be much facilitated as it would obviate the necessity of sending a ship to Philadelphia.

To the Honble Thomas Ewing
Secretary of the Treasury
NCKO

Dahlgren 9th Sept^r 1841

47

220

The undersigned believing
ing that the object of the government in
establishing the branch mint at this place
was to facilitate the operations & promote the
interest of a large portion of the citizens of
Georgia & Alabama engaged in mining
operations & to prevent the exportation of
gold bullion & finding that heretofore the
institution has not fully effected that
object addressed a letter to Mr Paul Roze-
not the Superintendent of the branch
mint requesting to be informed what
measures had been adopted by the govern-
ment to enable the Superintendent to ad-
vance coin to depositors of bullion & what
more, if any thing, was necessary to be done
fully to effect that object. In reply we have
received the inclosed letter to which we re-
spectfully refer your excellency.

By the letter of the superintendent it appears
that \$30,000 was originally appropriated to the use
of this branch mint, that heretofore but \$20,000
has been placed at its disposal.

It also appears that during the last
eight months the coinage has amounted to
\$95,498 & is gradually & rapidly increasing.

and that if the necessary means were placed at the disposal of the Superintendent of the mint the coinage at this branch would be greatly increased we think from 75 to 100 per cent not only from the increased facilities afforded by the government but by other causes now operating powerfully, among which the export of ~~large quantities of~~ agricultural products which must drive a large amount of labor from agricultural pursuits & the great scarcity of coin & the continual drain of the precious metals to meet the foreign debts of the States & companies engaged in works of internal improvement are not the least

Under this view of the subject we believe we are not asking more than falls within the scope of your powers & we are confident not more than your excellency will cheerfully accord us when we request you to place at the disposal of the Superintendent of this branch mint the entire amount heretofore appropriated by congress so soon as it can be done consistently with the many important calls which we are sensible must be made daily on your department & that if possible you will allow to this branch the additional officer which from the letter of the Superintendent will enable him fully to effec-

terate what we believe must have been the ob-
jects of the in establishing the branch society

We have the honor to be very respectfully

Yours excellencies

Wm L. G. S. S.

John A. Jones

Geo. D. Phillips

Turner H. Tappan

J. Hill

Samuel Cautell

Poling W. Fitch

Reuben G. Anderson

Adrian Ruck

G. M. McDougal

Long Cornby

Lucas Parker

William Taylor

David A. Hays

John B. Colthard

John Chace

Wm H. Underwood

H. Logan

A. Criss

M 48

221

Mint of the United States,

Oct. 7, 1841.

Sir,

Mr. Philos B. Tyler, Coiner of the New-Orleans Branch Mint, made, as you know, a visit to Washington, about a fortnight ago. While there, he was summoned, on the 23^d of September, before a Magistrate named Mosely, who bound him, under a penalty of \$500, to appear at Court on the last Monday in October, to give evidence in a criminal case. He made affidavit of what he knew relating to the case, but could not get released from the bond. Now his detention, until the time at which he is bound to appear, would be a serious interference with the public services required of him at the New Orleans Mint, which is expected to resume, at an early day, its operations, now temporarily suspended. — Under these circumstances, I feel myself forced to apply to you to cause such steps to be taken, if possible, as may serve to relieve Mr. Tyler from the necessity of appearing at Washington at the end of this month, for the purpose of giving oral testimony on a point, with regard

to which he has already made affidavit of
all he knows.

Very respectfully,

your faithful servant,

R. M. Patterson,
(Director.)

To/

Hon. Walter Forward,

Secretary of Treasury. }

Ms (49)

222

Washington October 11. 1841

Sir,

Enclosed are Mr. Patterson's letter, referred
to me by your direction, and my answer to that
letter.

I am, Sir,

Yours very respectfully,

P. R. Wendell, U. S. Atty. for D.C.

Hon. Walter Forward }
Secretary of the Treasury }

Respy. answered to the St.
Att. who will please to state

Mint of the United States,
Oct. 8, 1841.

Sir,

I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 6th inst., with the enclosed copy of a letter from Mess. Wilson & Co., complaining that cents coined at this Mint are sold by Mess. S. & A. Willets, at New York, at a rate equal to 7 per cent. below par.

Ever since the establishment of the Mint, it has been our practice to purchase the copper planchets, of which cents and half-cents are coined, ready prepared for the press. For a long time, these were procured from England; but they have, for some years past, been obtained from the Manufactory of Mess. Crocker, Brothers & Co., at Winton, Massachusetts. Since 1834, these planchets have generally been paid for by us, by agreement, in copper coins, - an arrangement advantageous to the Mint, and believed to be, on every account, unobjectionable. The letter of Mess. Wilson & Co. gives me, however, the first information that the cents thus given by us in payment, are now sold at New York below par.

I am confident that this must be a practice
of recent introduction, and I entirely agree
with your correspondents that it is an evil
of which they and the community have just
reason to complain. Fortunately, the remedy is
simple, and entirely within my power, and I will
take care that it shall be immediately applied.
I will either purchase the planchets for gold
& silver, and distribute the copper coins only
from the Mint, or I will insist upon such
a reduction in the price of these planchets
as will make it impossible for the Man-
ufacturers to part with the copper coins at
less than their nominal value, in gold & silver.

Very respectfully,

your faithful servant,

R. M. Patterson,
(Director.)

To/

Hon. Walter Forward,
Secretary of Treasury. }

WCK

M. (57)

226

Philadelphia October 9th 1841

Sir

As you desired, the Director of the Mint, Dr Patterson, has made a statement of the necessity and utility of my visit to this city, which I send enclosed. The "necessary interruption in the work at the New Orleans mint," which he speaks of, was building chimneys for the melting department; and the particular advantage arising from my visit, is, in rebuilding the large coining press, which can be done, ^{at} so much less expense in Philadelphia, that my traveling expenses are more than saved; besides my having an opportunity of examining, and copying the many important improvements in the machinery of the mother Mint.

Believing that my claim will meet your approbation; I shall be pleased to receive your consent to its payment, at your earliest convenience, as I hope to leave for New Orleans in a few days.

Most Sincerely,

Hon Walter Forward
Secretary of Treasury

Your Faithful Servant,
Philip B. Tyler.

Chief Coiner, of U.S. Mint, N.C.

M. (52) 225
Mint of the United States,
Oct. 6, 1841.

Sir,

Mr. Philos B. Tyler, Comr of the Branch Mint at New Orleans, had felt it very important, ever since his appointment to office, that he should visit the Philadelphia Mint, and examine the machinery and witness the operations here, in order to improve those in the department under his charge. A necessary interruption in the work at the New Orleans Mint has enabled him to make the proposed visit, and he has felt that the advantages of it have been very important.

The necessary travelling expenses of this visit will amount to about \$250. He asks that these may be allowed to him; and this cannot be done without your consent, for which he informs me that he has applied. In support of his claim, I have to state, that I believe his visit to have been of no small advantage to the interests of his department, - that he has been able to save expense to the New Orleans Branch by having work for it executed here under his superintendence, - and that the travelling expenses of the Assayer and Meltor & Refiner, under similar circumstances, were allowed.

Very respectfully,
your faithful servant,

Hon. Walter Forward, }
Secretary of Treasury.

R. W. Patterson,
Director.

7m (53)

226

227

Application of P. B. Tyler
 Chief of U. S. Branch Mint
 N. Orleans to be allowed his
 travelling expenses from N. Orleans
 Philad^a. and back (say about \$250)
 will be seen by the enclosed
 letter from W. Tyler to the Director
 dated June 29th 1841 that the appli-
 cation for leave of absence was made
 now from personal & family considerations
 in reference to any public
 benefit to be derived from the visit.
 Patterson states, however, that
 W. T.'s visit has been of no small
 advantage to the Department & that
 he has been able to save expense
 at the N. Orleans Mint by having
 work executed in P. under his super-
 intendance.

Over

An allowance was made
 last year by the President to
 the Melter & Refiner who obtained
 leave of absence to make a visit
 to Philad^a. with the express stipulation
 that his expenses were to be borne
 by himself, on the ground
 that a public benefit resulted
 from the visit. It may be
 added that the salaries of the
 officers at the P. Mint at N. Orleans
 are considered to be very low
 for so expensive a place.

Respectfully submitted

S. M. McKean
 12 Oct. 1841.

This amt. allowed
 Wm. and
 Mr. Tracy

Stats,
 to you,
 directed
 to be
 sent,
 Director,
 ing,
 Libs.

M (34)

227

Mint of the United States,
Oct. 15, 1824.

Sir,

I take the liberty of sending to you,
by the present mail, a box of dies, directed
on the inner envelope to the Superintendent
of the Branch Mint at New Orleans, to be
forwarded under your frank, as heretofore.

Very respectfully,

your faithful servant,
R. M. Patterson, Director,
per Geo. F. Summing,
Director's Clerk.

To
Hon. Walter Forward, }
Secretary of Treasury. }

No 55

228

Mint of the United States,
Oct. 15. 1841.

Sir,

In connection with the subject of your letter of the 6th inst. to the Director of the Mint, I deem it proper to transmit the enclosed copy of a letter from Mess. Crocker, Brothers & Co., showing that the sale of copper coins for less than their par value, - complained of by your correspondents, Mess. Wilson & Co., New York, - has been promptly stopped.

The Director is absent from the city, - having been called to Virginia by the sickness of his daughter.

Very respectfully,

your faithful servant

R. M. Patterson, Director,

per Geo. F. Summing,

Director's Clerk.

Hon. Walter Forward, }
Secretary of Treasury. }

Ms. A. 9. 2. 56

229

Tamilton, (Mass.) Oct. 11, 1841.

R. M. Patterson, Esq.,
Director U. S. Mint,

Dear Sir,

We are in receipt of your favor of the 8th inst., and hasten to reply thereto.

We have been informed by our Agents, Mess. A. & S. Willets, that they have recently, in a few instances, sold the copper coin received from us, on a credit of six months, or made a deduction equivalent to that credit, say $3\frac{1}{2}$ per cent.

This was done as an inducement for some institutions to take a larger supply than they otherwise would have done, and by which arrangement they would pay out only new pennies.

The above discount is the largest we have made, which we should not have done under any circumstances, had we duly considered the circumstances of the case, and the bearing on those persons who obtained their supplies in the usual way.

We have already given directions to our agents not to sell any more copper coin unless it can be exchanged for its "legal equivalent

in other money", and you can rely upon our conforming in future to the requisitions contained in your letter.

Regretting that there should have been any occasion for this correspondence, We are

Sir, Yrs, Very truly,
(signed) Crocker, Bros. & Co.

Mint of the United States, 230
Oct. 27, 1841.

Sir,

The adoption, at the Mint, of the new system of coining, has thrown upon our hands some screw coining-presses, and other machinery, which are, and must remain, quite useless to us. These presses, deprived of all the appendages which adapt them for coining, would be still valuable to Button-makers, Lamp-makers, and some other trades. I am desirous of selling them, as they occupy room which is needed by us; but I have not judged it right or prudent to take this step without your consent, - for which I therefore now apply. Sales of articles useless to the Mint, have heretofore been made, and, on such occasions, the proceeds have always been credited, on our books, to the United States, and used for paying contingent expenses.

Very respectfully,

Your faithful servant,

R. M. Patterson,
(Director.)

To/

Hon. Walter Forward, }
Secretary of Treasury. }

Mint of the United States,
Oct. 2^d, 1841.

Sir,

I have the honor to send you herewith a report of the operations of the Mint and its Branches for the last month. It has been detained for the usual monthly report to me from the New Orleans Branch; but no such report has been received, in consequence, I presume, of the suspension of their operations. I had supposed, however, that they might have deposits to report, although they had no coinage.

I have been collecting facts for the communication which you requested from me with regard to Branch Mints, and hope to make report to you on the subject in a few days.

Very respectfully,

your faithful servant,
R. M. Patterson,
Director.

To,

Mr. Walter Forward, }
Secretary of Treasury. }

15/ L10 - 7 110
105 8
178

M (59)

232

Min^{tr} of the United States,
Nov. 17, 1841.

Sir,

I take the liberty of sending, by
the present mail, a box of dies, directed on
the inner envelope to the Superintendent of
the Branch Mint at New Orleans, to be forwarded
as heretofore, under your frank.

Very respectfully,

your faithful servant,
R. W. Patterson,
(Director.)

To,

Hon. Walter Forward, }
Sec. of Treasury. }

M 60

233

Mint of the United States.
Nov. 18th, 1841.

Sir, I have the honor to return to you the
bond of Paul Rossignol Esq., as Superintendent
of the Branch Mint at Dahlberg, with
a certificate annexed that it is "to my satis-
faction."

Very respectfully,
Your faithful Servant,
R. M. Patterson,
Director.

To /
Hon. Walter Forward,
Secretary of the Treasury.

M. (51)

284

Mint of the United States,
Nov. 19, 1841.

Sir,

I have to acknowledge the receipt
of a package of coins, for the Annual Assay,
from the Branch Mint at Dahlenburg, and
of a letter and coins from the U. S. Consul
at Bremen, transmitted by you on the 17th
inst.

Very respectfully,

your faithful servant,
R. M. Patterson,
Director.

To/

Hon. Walter Forward, }
Secretary of Treasury. }

M. 62

235

Minist of the United States,
Nov. 20, 1841.

Sir,

I have the honor to send you, herewith, a report of the Operations of the Mint and its Branches for the month of October last. The Superintendent of the New Orleans Mint reports, that they "commenced receiving depositors on the 1st inst., and expected to be in full operations by the 8th."

Very respectfully,

Your faithful servant,
R. M. Patterson,
(Director.)

To/

Wm. Walter Lowndes, }
Secretary of Treasury.

172

33
165
+2
172

33
165
16
181

No. 63

Mint of the United States.
Dec. 10th, 1841.

Sir,
I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 8th inst., transmitting a package of gold coins, from the Branch Mint at Dahlonega, for the Annual Assay.

Very respectfully,
Your faithful servant,
R. M. Patterson,
(Director.)

To / Hon^{ble} Walter Forward, }
Secretary of the Treasury. }

N. 64

287

Mint of the United States.
(Dec. 18th, 1841.

Sir,
I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of a third remittance of coins for the annual assay sent through you by the Branch Mint at Dahlmege. I send, by this mail, a box of dies, directed on the inner envelope for the Branch Mint at New Orleans, which I have to request that you will forward, under your frank, as heretofore.

Very respectfully,

Your faithful servant,
R. W. Patterson,
(Director.)

To
Hon. Walter Forward,
Secretary of the Treasury.

M. (55)

238

Mint of the United States,
Dec. 20, 1841.

Sir,

I take the liberty of sending to you,
by the present mail, a box of dies, directed
on the inner envelope to the Superintendent of the
Branch Mint at Sacklonega, to be forwarded under
your frank, as usual.

Very respectfully,

your faithful servant,
R. M. Patterson, Director,
per Geo. F. Summing,
Director's Clerk.

To)

Ans.

Walter Forward, }
Secretary of Treasury. }

Mr. 66

239

Mint of the United States,
Dec. 22, 1841.

Sir,

I take the liberty of sending to you, by
the present mail, a box of dies, directed on the inner
envelope to the Superintendent of the Branch Mint
at Charlotte, to be forwarded under your frank, as
enclosure.

Very respectfully,

your faithful servant,

R. M. Patterson,

Director.

To)

Hon. Walter Forward,
Secretary of Treasury. }

Mr. Gay

240

Mint of the United States,
Dec. 23, 1841.

Sir,

I take the liberty of sending to you, by
the present mail, a box of dies, directed on the inner
envelope to the Superintendent of the Branch Mint at
New Orleans, to be forwarded under your frank, as
heretofore.

Very respectfully,

your faithful servant,

R. M. Patterson,

Director.

Sir,

Am. Walter Forward, }
Secretary of Treasury. }

M 68

241

Mint of the United States,
Dec. 23, 1841.

Sir,

I have the honor to send you, herewith, a
Statement of the operations of the Mint and its Branch-
es for the month of November last.

Very respectfully,

Your faithful servant,

R. M. Patterson,

Director.

To)

Am. Walter Forward, }
Secretary of Treasury.

M. (59)

242

MR

Mint of the United States.
(December 31st., 1841.)

Sir,

In compliance with the request made in your letter of the 24th inst., I have now the honor to send you a full statement of "the annual amount of gold and silver coinage at the Mint and Branch Mints of the United States, since the establishment of the Mint," and up to the end of November last.

Very respectfully,
your faithful servant,
R. M. Patterson,
Director.

To Hon^{ble} Walter Forward,
Secretary of the Treasury.

Mr. 70

243

Walthamton July 28
1841

Sir

Will you examine the matter referred
to in the enclosed letter, & if found
correct, - adjust - its payment with me -
or make such other report of the
matter as the case justifies

Respectfully yours &c

John Henderson

Secretary of the Treasury

M 71

244

Worcester Jan 15th 1841 -

John Henderson Esq Sir -

I take the liberty of writing to you respecting a claim I have against the United States Branch Mint - at New Orleans, and wish if it is convenient - you would attend to it - for me, as I can get nothing from the Officers at New Orleans, the claim is not much, but small as it is it is justly due me, and I should like to have it settled, the amount is but \$50. If you will enquire at the Office of the Treasury Department - you will see the amount of Vouchers I have from me - and you will find that they are debited to me in that amount. I was in the service of the Mint - from the 1st of April 1839 to the 1st of November 1839. as Acting Master of Ballion at the Salary of \$1200 pr year. You will see by calculating the time that the Mint due me 1st Nov 1839 was seven hundred dollars of which amount I only received \$650. as will appear from Vouchers in that Department. Your attention will much oblige
Yours obt Serv

Richd J Parker

Jan 31
Hear

It appears by the clearing statement, (No 19,309) of C. Dennis
 account, that Richard Parker received his salary from 1st July
 1830 June 1839

In the clearing statement No 80,617, Mr Dennis received
 credit for a payment in account, to R. Parker's salary
 (For this sum - no receipt of Mr Parker was forwarded)

In the clearing statement, for salary for the
 quarter ending 31 December 1839, the following entry appears
 "Richard Parker for salary in full from 1 July to 31 Oct - medium
 4 months, at £1200 p annum

£480
 Less the amount already against him in the account
 £400
 Balance, 80 80p - by the rate cleared

This receipt is signed by the Clerk -

Regent's Office Jan 30. 1841

John Henderson

Residing in City

W. P.

There is no
 30 Jan 41
 Ref to the
 Register who
 will please
 state the sum
 paid to Mr
 Parker & for
 what purpose
 he was paid

No 228 -
 Aug 30 -
 Regent's

M. 72

245

Branch Mint New Orleans.
Treasurer's Office 11. February 1841.

Sir,

I have received your letter of 25. ultimo accompanied by three neatly transcripts returned in order that certain deposits made with me, to the credit of the Treasurer of the U. States, may be explained.

I am aware of the necessity of ascertaining, at the time a deposit is made, the object for which, and the name of the party, for whose credit it is made. But sometimes the money is brought to the Mint by agents who themselves do not possess the information required.

I now send you again two of the three transcripts annexed, but I can get no explanation, from the Citizens Bank, about the deposits made by J. B. Terrault, Cashier for accounts of G. S. Barrett, Marshall of the Western District of Louisiana. This sum was first deposited in that Bank, and subsequently transferred to me by the Cashier, who does not know on whose account it was made, and I have applied to Mr. Barrett, for the information.

I have the honor to be with great respect
Your faithful servant

H. C. Hammack

Treasurer

Respectfully

Levi Woodbury
Secretary of the
Treasury.

M (73)

246

Branch Mint New Orleans
Treasurer's Office 13 February 1841

Sir,

I have the honor to acknowledge receipt of
your letter of the 2nd instant, which, agreeably to
your request, I have handed to the Superintendent
for his consideration.

I am,

very respectfully

Your most obd. servant

Hebammack

Treasr

To the

Honorable Levi Woodbury

Secretary of the Treasury

check

74

217

Branch Mint New Orleans
Treasurer's Office March 8. 1841.

Sir

With reference to my letter to you of the 21st Ultimo I now hand you herewith communications from the officers of this Branch Mint made in reply to an enquiry from me as to what amount of Government deposits to purchase metal for coinage, will be requisite to facilitate the operations of the mint and enable it to supply with promptness the demands of the public.

The deposits during the last year was \$122,000. the whole of which was drawn for in the month of January, and subsequently 20,000 \$ have been returned.

After consulting with the Superintendent, Mr Kennedy, in this subject I have decided that it will be proper, and I have his sanction for doing so, to ask you to increase this deposit to 200,000 Dollars.

I have the honor to remain
with great respect

Your most obedient

W^m Hammond

Treasr.

To Honble Levi Woodbury
Secretary of the Treasury

Sir,

In reply to your note, I would observe that the amount of silver & gold deposited as a fund by the Government in this Mint, as being requisite to facilitate its operations, & to enable it to supply with promptness the demands of the public, must vary according to the supposed amount of the deposits & coinage for the year, & also according to the nature of the deposits, as it is evident that a much larger sum would be required for Mexican silver Bullion containing gold, or gold Bullion containing silver, demanding the tedious operation of separating, than for foreign Gold & Silver Coins. And here it may be proper to remark that the necessity of having such a fund arises! from the fact that one half of the Bullions used in the active operations of the Mint is always in the form of clippings, 2 That an contingent disproportionate amount of unavailable bullion must exist in the state of grains, Sirups, &c and 3, That a certain amount of ^{fine} silver has to be reserved by the Melted & Refiner for the purpose of alloying, & to aid in some cases of

H. C. C.

Separating. Presuming from present
appearances that the deposits during the
present year will consist almost entirely
of Coins, I should think, that estimating our
Coinage at from one million to one and a half,
the sum of one hundred fifty thousand
dollars in proper proportions of silver &
gold would prove adequate. But probably
double that amount would be necessary,
if the ^{deposits &} coinage should equal the expectations
of the government as formerly expressed,
to wit - \$ 3,000,000 in due proportions of
both metals — Very respectfully Yrs &c

Wm. F. Hunt Apr 2 —

New Orleans 25 Feb 1841 —

A. C. Cammick Esq —
Fr. the Mint. U. S. N. O. — 3

M 76

249

Coiner's Office Feb 28th 1841

Sir

In answer to your inquiry, on the 24th inst. of the amount of Gold and Silver Bullion required in my department &c. — I would state, that to employ the workmen and machinery in my department, to the best advantage. I shall need a sufficient amount of Silver Bullion to employ each branch of the business for one day, which may be estimated as follows

For Rolling into strips & annealing — — —	15,000.00
" Drawing, adjusting & piercing. — — —	15,000.00
" Roasting, Melling, & Bleaching — — —	10,000.00
" Stamping, (and for convenience of the second press) —	20,000.00
" Counting, weighing & adjusting for delivery — —	20,000.00
Total amount of Silver Bullion — — —	80,000.00

And as the demand for gold coins cannot be expected to be sufficient to occupy all the branches at one time, I shall only require the most convenient amount for working in one lot, which may be estimated as follows. —

if Made into Eagles —	4,000.00
" " " 1/2 eagles —	3,000.00
" " " 1/4 " —	2,000.00
So that it may be estimated at —	3,000.00

However, half that amount may be worked with almost equal facility, but with more expense.

Very Respectfully Yours,

Philos. B. Tyler
Coiner

J. B. Cammack Esq
Superintendent

250

M 77

Melter & Refiners Office 27 Feb. 1841

Sir

Your note of the 24th inst. was received this day. I reply on the supposition that our coinage will amount to \$100,000. in silver and \$50,000. in gold each month. This would require from my department the monthly delivery of \$200,000. in silver ingots and \$100,000. in gold ingots. At one melt of silver I cast near \$16,000. While making this melt I will generally have the preceding melt ready for delivery, and when delivered I will immediately require material for another melt; thus requiring habitually in hand for the purpose of casting silver ingots say \$32,000. In the form of fine silver I ought in an average to have say \$12,000. for raising foreign coins to our standard. There will be in an average an unavailable balance of grain &c \$5,000. And lastly for silver in process of being separated from gold say allow usually \$5,000.

Making $32,000 + 12,000 + 5,000 + 5,000 =$ in all \$64,000.

In gold I would require in my possession say 20,000.
Total — \$84,000.

The above is a close estimate, and might perhaps be safely changed thus:—

Silver \$75,000.
Gold 25,000.
Total \$100,000.

Respectfully
J. L. Riddell
Melter & Refiner

H. C. Cummack & Co.

W 78
United States Branch Mint - 251
N. Orleans, April 12, 1841

Sir,

I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt from
Dr. Patterson, thro' the Treasury Department,
of five boxes of dis., for the use of this Mint.

Respectfully

J. A. S. New

J. A. S. New

Supt.

Hon^{ble} J. H. Ewing

Sec^y of the Treasury

M. A. 79 Branch Mint N. Orleans 252
April 28. 1841.

Sir,

The three boxes of die, two of which are men-
tioned in your communication of the 8th; and
one in that of the 16th instant, have been
duly received.

Very respectfully

J. A. Seward

J. A. Seward
Supt.

Hon. Tho. S. Ewing

Sec. of the Treas.

W. J. Branch Mint

253

New Orleans, May 29. 1841

Sir,

The two boxes of dies, mentioned in your letter of the 15th instant, have been duly received.

The introduction into our Mint, of Slave labour, has frequently been urged upon me by our Abolition & Refiner. His reasons in favor of it, have, at my request, been reduced to writing, in a communication which I now have the honor to enclose. I see ~~nothing~~ provision, either in the law, or the instructions by which our Institution is governed which is opposed to an acquiescence in the measure, on my part, but the importance of the matter induces me to submit it to you for your opinion -

Very respectfully
J. Q. A. Seward

Hon. J. Ewing
Sec^y of the
Treas^y

J. M. McKim

Sup^t

254
Branch Mint New Orleans May 21. 1841

J. M. Kennedy Esq. Superintendant,

Sir—

The employment of slave labor in the melting department of this mint, has, for a considerable time been a subject of reflection with me, and I am convinced that its partial introduction is practicable and would be attended with good results.

The following are some of the reasons as they present themselves to my mind in favor of employing slaves:—

I have in my department five hands, viz:—two foremen and three laborers. These three laborers are employed in carrying coal, tending furnaces, cleaning out ash-pits, cleaning and handling moulds, lifting pots from furnaces, sweeping, filing ingots &c. &c. services which could at all times be just as well performed by blacks as by whites, and in the hot months of summer much better; since Creole blacks can stand heat in this climate, or endure to work over hot furnaces far better than whites. White workmen very generally wish to leave during the summer, which if it does not wholly suspend, sorely cripples the operations of the mint.

By permitting the employment of three slaves the government would save \$20. a month in each, equal to \$60. on the three, or \$720. a year, since, besides a deduction from present prices of \$15. on the monthly

wages of each, it would be unnecessary to allow pay for their overtime.

By this means the custody of the bullion in process of melting or refining, would be rendered perfectly safe, which I cannot consider it now, and this consideration with me is paramount to all others. Thus: a rigid police might be easily maintained over slaves, which would prevent the possibility of robbery. The clothing of the slaves could be purposely simple and without pockets. They should never leave certain circumscribed premises until the closing of work at night, when their clothes should be changed in a room previously locked, in presence of a foreman. All this would be impracticable with white laborers. They will not submit to these restrictions, nor is it to be asked of them. At present I have to trust to the honesty of my men, which I have it is true no special reason to doubt, yet day by day for weeks they might carry off bullion almost unsuspected, and thus involve me in ruin.

Knowing the possibility, I confess I am very often, I may say almost incessantly annoyed by uneasy, though I hope groundless apprehensions.

I am informed that for some time past, the Melter and Refiner of the Dahlonega Mint has employed slaves as laborers.

In conclusion, the pith of the matter may be laid bare in few words; - By availing ourselves of slave labor in the molting department,

1st We should almost do away with the danger of suspension in the summer, on account of unhealthiness of the climate, as occasioning the sickness or emigration of the laborer.

2nd We should annually save \$720. in pay for laborers:

3rd And last, by placing these slaves under the control of a vigilant and confidential foreman, my mind would be set at ease as regards the robbery of hulkies, by almost preventing as I conceive the possibility of its occurrence.

I subscribe myself
respectfully

Yours obedient servant
J. L. Riddell,
Molter & Refiner

The United States Branch Mint New Orleans

For pay to porter employed
under act 4 July 1840, in the
Third Quarter 1841.

To Anthony Salmon, pay in July	1	62
Ditto August	2	62
Ditto September	3	00
		184

Branch Mint

New Orleans Treasurers Office

30 September 1841

W. L. Hammond

For

It appearing that large sums of cash remained in the hands of the Treasurer of the Branch Mint at the above date, I authorize and approve the payment of the above under the proviso of the 1st Section of the Act of 13th Aug.

1841

Secretary of the Treasury

(Copy)

256-7

Treasury Department
Aug 12th 1841

Receiver General

New York. August. 26. 1841

W.S. Tub. Hoam.

To. Cyrenius. et. Dodge. Dr -

For. Services; as. Porter. from. 1st August. 1841.

to. 25. August. 1841 inclusive.

at. 500 \$ per m

} \$ 34.71/-

Rec^d. Payment. from. Robt. C. Cornell
late. Receiver General.

Cyrenius N. Dodge

This Amount. should. be. only 33. 57 for. Dollars (as. pr. Letter. -) I calculated the month of Aug^t. as 30 days
instead of 31 days. -

R.C.C.

$$\begin{array}{r} 34.71 \\ 37.57 \\ \hline 1.86 \end{array}$$
 Overpaid.

(Signed)

T. Ewing

Secretary of the
Treasury

J. De La Motta Esq^r.

Receiver General.

Charleston S.C.

Cromwell's M. Dodge - Peter -
Secretary. Dec -

Aug 1. to Aug 25. in charge -

Pauline . . . p 24, 71/-

Charlotte Wentworth p 33. 57/-

overpaid line p 114

Authorized Difference &

Secretary of the Treasury

1841

(Copy)

256 57

Treasury Department
May 12th 1841

Sir,

I have received your Letter of the 8th inst., and am gratified to perceive your zeal in carrying out the views of this Department in restricting the expenses of your Office within the narrowest limits consistent with convenience and security to the public.

The proposed dismissal of the Clerk of your Office and the employment of a Porter at the wages of Twenty Dollars per month instead, has my Cordial approbation.

I am Sir

Very Respectfully
Yours &c. &c.

(Signed) T. Ewing
Secretary of the
Treasury

J. De La Motte Esq.

Receiver General

Charleston S.C.

18.
Charleston June 12th 1841 from

Received Charleston September 20th 1841 from
Genl De La Motte Recd Genral Twenty
two $\$ \frac{14}{7}$ for one month and Eight days salary
since in his office to this date and in full.

Joshua Carter

25
quarter, but it will be very convenient for me if the
Clerk can be allowed to resume a short time before

10.
Boston June 12th 1841 from

and Charleston May 12th 1841 from Jacob
La Motta. Received from Twenty Dollars
amount of our months salary due this day
services in his office

Joshua Center

20
quarter, but it will be very convenient for me if the
clerk can be allowed to resume a short time longer

12.
received Charleston June 12th 1841 from
Col Dr La Motta Receiver General Twenty
dollars for one months salary for services
his office due this day.

Joshua Canter

20
quarter, but it will be very convenient for me if the
clerk can be allowed to remain a short time longer.

Received Charleston July 12th 1841 from Jacob
La Motta Prisoner - General Twenty Dollars
one months salary for services in his office
this day.

\$20

Joshua Canter

quarter, but it will be very convenient for me if the
clerk can be allowed to resume a short time longer.

Received Charleston August 12th 1841 from
Jacob De La Motta Receiver General Twenty
dollars for one months salary for services
his office over this day.

Joshua Carter

\$20

quarter, but it will be very convenient for me if the
next can be allowed to resume a short time longer.

M (82)

257

Branch mint New Orleans
Treasurer's Office 18 Sept 1841.

Sir

I have the honor to hand you enclosed herewith
weekly transcript of moneys paid during the week ending
this day.

On the 14 August I furnished you with an estimate
for Contingent expenses for present quarter under the act of
4 July 1840. My accounts have since been adjusted
at the Treasury department and a balance found against
me of \$38. for "Contingent expenses" and in my favor for
"Salary of Clerk" of \$111.10. I therefore request a remittance
of \$111.10 account of "Salary of Clerk"

deck I have no instructions with regard to the continuation
in my employ, of a clerk and porter for the Sub. Treasury.
The services of the porter will not be required after the present
quarter, but it will be very convenient for me if the
clerk can be allowed to remain a short time longer. Say
as long as I have the public money in my possession

I am, with great respect
Your faithful servant.

W. Hammack

Treasurer

To the Honorable
Thomas Ewing
Secretary of the Treasury.

check

M. 83

250

Branch Mint of the United States

New Orleans, 4th November 1841

Messrs. Walter Forward

Secretary of the Treasury.

Sir

Circumstances of a personal nature have made me desirous of changing in part the securities on my bond for \$10000. for the faithful performance of my duties as Minter & Refiner. Wherefore in accordance with the advice of the District attorney of this District, I request you to direct that officer to accept a new bond with satisfactory security, and cause the old one to be cancelled.

Respectfully

Your Obedient
Servant

J. L. Riddell
Minter & Refiner.

M

(84)

259

Br. U.S. Mint,
Dahlgren 3 Jan'y. 1841

Hon. Levi Woodbury

Sir, this accompanies
my remission of Gold Coins for the An-
nual Assay, Contg. 12 pieces one from
each Melt of 1840 from No. 1 to 12 inclusive,
value \$57.50. Which you will be
pleased to forward direct to the
Director of the Mint at Philadelphia.

I have the hon. of
being your respectful
Humble servant

J. E. Singleton
Supt. & Treasr.

M (85)

260

Br. U.S. Mint
Delmona 12th Jan. 1841

Hon. Levi Woodbury

Sir, I have the honor
of inclosing to your address by the
same mail which carries this, 16 more
pieces of our Gold Coin for the Annual
Assay at Philadelphia, which you
will be pleased to forward to Dr.
Patterson the Director of the Mint.
This is the 4th and last remittance,
amounting in all to \$242.50. The value
of this is \$70.00.

I am very respectfully
Sir your humble servant
J^ohⁿ Singleton
S^up^t. & Treas^r.

M

(86)

261

Br. W.D. Mint
Dahlanega 13th Feb. 1841

Sir,
I announce with pleasure the receipt of two boxes Dirs under the "marks of the Department". Without material accident, within ten days I shall be ready to meet the contemplated Treasurers Drafts with Gold Coin. We consider your advice to be prepared to meet such a contingency almost equivalent to the withdrawal of the one half of our Government funds, a contingency truly deleterious to the prosperity of our infant Br Mint should it become necessary to carry it out, which I hope will not be the case. Should however, the wants of the Gov. require this fund, it will afford me pleasure to refund every dollar to sustain the views and policy of my own faith, the more especially as I am inclined to think that the "days are numbered" for the existence of the Br Mint.

I have the honor Sir to be
Your respectful servantW. C. Singleton
Treasr & Cashr

Hon. Levi Woodbury

Secretary &c.

M (87)

262

Mr. U. S. Mint
Dahlgren 10th Feby. 1841

Sir, I have the hon. to acknowledge the receipt of your communication of the 5th Inst. notifying me of the probability of being called on by the Treasurers drafts for one half of our fund for procuring Metal for coining. which fund is at this time in the shape of Gold Bullion, owing to the prompt demand of Depositors for their coin about as fast as we can prepare it for them. We shall now proceed forthwith to prepare the desired amount in anticipation of said Drafts, which will require some eight or ten days, this in addition to the required 18 to 20 days for our return from Philadelphia will make perhaps a month before we could be ready to meet said Drafts, after which it will be ready at a moments warning.

Permit me Sir, most respectfully, here to state, that the withdrawal of this fund will have a most deleterious effect in blasting the prospects of this branch of the Mint. With our entire allowance

Feb 21
Dear

of \$20,000 it is as much as we can do to
pay our Depositors within a reasonable time
for their Redlion. The blending of the
offices of Assayer, Melter & Refiner in one
person keeps that Officer all his time
closely engaged at one or the other of his
duties, and the officer we make up a pre-
paration for Coinage the more expense it
is to the Government, in wastage, fuel,
and other necessary articles, while each pre-
paration only produces but little more
than the ~~one~~ half of its value in coin
from the Coiners Department, hence the
seldom we make a preparation for
coinage consistent with the demands
of Depositors the less expense it is to
the Government.

I do not Sir, consider it any part of my
duty to remonstrate in this matter, but
to the contrary to acquiesce promptly in
the decisions of the Department; nevertheless,
as a friend of the Miners of this part of the
Gold Region, it is certainly my duty to sus-
tain an Institution established principally for
their benefit & especially while our prospects
for an increase of the much desired medi-
um of circulation are so good.
It will be seen by the Annual Report of

The Director of the Mint that we are
on the rising ground, and while we then
continue, I am sure it would be good
policy at least with the friends of the
hard money system to continue it with
all necessary facilities.

I am Sir very respectfully
Yours &c
J. H. Singleton
Sup. & Treas.

Hon. Isaac Woodbury
Secretary &c.

Adj. r. p. I shall not call for
it, unless necessary. But
it is best to be prepared
for any contingency

McK

263

Br. W. J. Mint
Dorchester 15th February 1841

Hon. Genl Woodbury

Sir, I am somewhat reluctant in claiming what I consider my just right, and but for the expected separation which will soon take place between friends, and not knowing that I shall be even allowed another application to the Department for the same claim, I should not now trouble you with this. It will be recollected no doubt that in 1838 some of my vouchers were lost either by the misconduct of a Deputy Post Master of this section of the Country, or in some other way, which rendered it necessary for the Comptroller on the 8th of May last (1840) to call upon me for the Duplicates, to be carried in person, if I did not choose to risk them by the mail, accordingly I sent them by the Clerk of this Br. of the Mint, in preference to conveying them myself, under the belief that it would be more satisfactory to the Department. The expenses incurred in this conveyance, at 10 cents per mile amounted to \$188.00 which account I made out and charged

Jan 27
W. Kean

in my 3 quarterly return of last year, and which
was rejected. I remonstrated with the Comptroller
in an effort to show that it was not my
fault that this extra expense was incurred,
therefore prayed that it should be allowed me,
he continued to refuse, but advised me to
address you on the subject, which I consider
equivalent to an acknowledgement of the equity
of the claim.

If it does not conflict with previous decisions
of the Department, it does appear to me that
the justice of the claim will be a sufficient
apology for troubling you at this time, espe-
cially when it is predicated upon a decision
of the Department of March 1837, as commu-
nicated to me by Mr. Chief Clerk Young, which
was "that 10 cents pr. mile was the allowance
for travelling upon lawful business."

I have the honor Sir of being
your friend & humble servant.
Wm. Singleton
Supt. & Treasr.

M (88)

264

Br. U.S. Mint
Savannah 19th Jan^y. 1841

Hon. Levi Woodbury

Sir, Since my letter to you of the 18th Inst. I regret to say that in our first coining operation of this year our Die for 1841 became so injured by cracks, as to be rendered entirely useless; hence it will be out of my power to meet the Treasurers Drafts mentioned in your last communication (should they be issued) until we can get another Die from Philadelphia. I have this day requested the Director of the Mint to forward us another Die as early as he can, with special reference to those contemplated Drafts, as I may be enabled to pay them promptly; as nothing would I regret more than not to be able to pay them on sight. Owing to this unfortunate circumstance I also regret that I am not enabled to say with certainty when I can have that portion of the Governments Deposits converted into coin, as it depends (as you are aware of) upon the movements at Philadelphia and the U.S. Mail.

I have now in my vault perhaps as much as \$30,000 in Gold Coin ready for its owners, and which was deposited under the full expectation of being paid as soon as ready, and I am daily paying out according to promises

which I was enabled to make good upon the govern-
ment Deposits. Which, if withdrawn, my promises of
early payment must cease, so far as regards the ordinary
time.

Our mails are now stopped by high waters,
and how long the like may continue I know not.
Be you assured Sir, that so soon as we can possibly
be prepared to meet the Treasurers Drafts it will be
done, and of which I will give notice. They can be
met with Gold Bullion at any day, should that
suit the holder.

I have the hon Sir of being
Yours very respectfully,
J. M. Singleton
Cup & Treas.

M. 89

265

Washington Feby 22nd 1841

Dear Sir,

I have just received ^{the enclosed} a letter from Ignatius A. Jew Esq., relation to his apc & compensation allowed, as Commissioner for erecting the Branch Mint in Georgia. Mr. Jew states that the true balance due by him is \$66.44, which he is ready to pay on as soon as his acct is adjusted & his claim of two per cent on the amount of the full disbursements, allowed.

I beg the favor of You, to have Mr. Jew's apc settled & to inform me of the result, that I may send it to him.

Very truly & Respectly
Yr. Obedt Servt

Wm Levi Woodbury
Society of the Treasury

Wm. Lloyd Garrison
Reply on the points required

Dear Sir

Washington, Wilkes Co. Geo. Feb^{ry} 18th 1841

266

I must request you to give a very brief attention to the settlement of my account with the Treasury Department; I am persuaded that a few words from you, will cause a just settlement to be made with me, and I wish nothing more. In the letter written to me by the Secretary, which made my ^{appointment} ~~appointment~~, and stated the compensation I should receive, he says "Your compensation will be a commission not exceeding two per cent on the amount to be expended for the erection of the building, and the purchase of the site" - This letter is dated the 13th March 1835, and I suppose a copy of it may be found in his office, at all events I have the original - I suppose I might safely refer it to any lawyer in the United States, to say, whether this was to be my compensation for services to be rendered by me as Commissioner for erecting the Branch Mint, or whether it was to be a per centage on whatever sum of money the Secretary might choose to disburse through my hands; - he chooses to put the last construction, and after I had rendered all the service & closed the accounts with the Contractors & them, pays the sum of \$15,619.⁵⁷ by another Agent, and deducts two per cent on this sum, from my compensation, is this either legal or just? If my compensation was to depend on the sum disbursed by me, then it is obvious enough that I was entitled to claim the disbursement of the whole sum to be paid in consequence of services rendered by me as Commissioner; but if my compensation was a per centage on the "amount to be expended", then the disbursement of the money was a merely incidental part of the services to be rendered, and cannot affect my compensation - it is equally clear that if the Secretary, by giving this construction to the contract, could subtract ten dollars from it, by paying a part of the money through other hands, he might have deprived me of the whole. The whole only amounts to \$729.⁷⁴ and of this he seeks to deprive me of nearly one half and I might ask cui bono? it cannot profit

him, and why he should wish to injure, unjustly, a private citizen, for the purpose of putting this trifling amount into the Treasury I cannot conceive. I had hoped that I should through your mediation obtain some enlargement of the compensation promised me, and did not suppose that even twice \$729. would have been more than equivalent to the services rendered, for I am certain that my expenses in fulfilling the Commission amounted to more than the percentage promised me, but I must submit, if this cannot be done, and only hope that I may never again hold an office of profit under the government. I have at all times been ready to pay the true balance of \$661.⁰⁰ due from me, when my account was adjusted, and my claim for the compensation promised me, allowed, and ~~if~~ I informed the Secretary twelve months ago. All my vouchers are in the hands of the Department, and have been allowed. May I ask your attention to this matter before the present Administration goes out of office? I do not wish to go over the whole settlement again, & with others who have not previously been acquainted with the business, & who perhaps, may seek occasion to find errors where none exist. I assure you that however the matter may terminate, my gratitude for your kindness in procuring me the office, ~~remains~~ will suffer no abatement. I am dear Sir very sincerely & respectfully
your friend

Hon^{ble} John Forsyth

Signature A. S. S.

McKe

Mr. (91)

267

Br. U.S. Mint
Dahlonaga 2 March 1841

The Hon. Secy. of the Treasury
of the U.S.

Sir, I have this moment received two letters, one from the Hon. Genl. Dacotson, and the other from the Hon. Richd. W. Habershams, at the contents of which I was much astonished so far as regards certain charges made against me by a portion of our citizens, and addressed particularly to Col. Habershams who informs me that he feels it to be his duty to lay the same before the President, and advises me to address my reply to you &c. and Col. Dacotson informs me that he has not a doubt but what ~~you will~~ grant me a hearing &c.

Now Sir, I presume all that is necessary, and which is all that I can say at this time, is for me to respectfully state to you, ^{what I have to say} in reference to said charges. (viz) Charge 1st I pronounce false, so far as regards an interference in "all elections" It is true that I feel that kind of interest in the late Presidential so common throughout our whole country, and if contradicting misrepresentations of the characters of the contending candidates, and condemning the various species of

grand practised, and attempted to be practised in this section of the Country, not only in elections, but in every other way which human nature could invent, can be construed into an interference in all elections. Then I am guilty and must only appeal to the Presidents patriotism, and republican principles to sustain me, or condemn me.

Charge D is also denied, by refering you to the proper authorities under whom I have acted for near four years, and to every other Individual with whom I have had an official transaction since the commencement of our Mint operations to prove to the contrary.

Charge E is denied, so prone which, I respectfully refer you to the decision of the President upon that subject, which I have, and which I presume is on file in the Treasury Department.

Charge F and last, I believe to be utterly false, and most respectfully refer you to every respectable Individual in the Gold Region or out of it, so far as my acquaintance extends, for proof to the contrary. I assure you that I do not know of one, and I challenge the said Memoralist to name one, and prove the fact.

Sir, the very circumstance of procrastination in this matter is in my humble opinion sufficient to stamp on the face of it a malicious design gotten up for selfish purposes. If you or the President only knew the characters of the few original projectors

of the conspiracy, I am sure that the necessity of my writing or saying a word in self defence would be entirely useless. My friends will leave Washington in a few days, hence I shall be deprived of their personal assistance, which no doubt was the object of the said Petitioners in their delay.

All I ask for in this disagreeable matter, is justice, and should the President determine to act upon it at all time and opportunity of self defence. And I pledge you my reputation as a gentleman, that if it is thought preferable, I will call upon no other individual, or individuals but those of Genl. Harrison's most respectable friends to disprove

my charge, and through them will bow to the satisfaction of the President. The whole scheme is founded in selfish considerations. Principally gotten up, and pursued in to the end by as base a character as our State affords, so much so that he was afraid to put his own name to it, as I am credibly informed.

I am the honor of being
your respected humble servant
J. P. Singleton
Asst. Sec. Treasury

W. C. M.

92

268

Br. U. C. Mint
Dahlonaga 5th March 1841

Sir,

I have the hon. to state to you that since I received the notice of the charges against me, referred to in my letter of the 2nd Inst. I have thought it advisable to address the enclosed circular to some of the principal Depositors of Gold Bullion in this Br. of the Mint, by which you will perceive my object. As yet I have only received the replies of two, which are herewith enclosed. So soon as I receive others they will be forwarded in like manner. For the characters of any thus forwarded, I respectfully refer you to either of the members of Congress from Georgia, especially to the Hon. Wm. C. Dawson or Rich. W. Habersham.

A Term of our Superior Court for this County has just closed, the Grand Jury of which has been kind enough to furnish me with a statement of their views in this recent effort for my removal from office. A certified copy of the same is also herewith inclosed. This body of honest men for as such they were chosen, was composed of both of the political parties here, the nineteen names which you will see are out of twenty one Jurors composing the Body, one of the two, (the Foreman)

not signing, is my best friend, who was only precluded from interested motives. The other was absent, or ^{for} I thought I know it would have been a unanimous action.

Thus Sir, you are only enabled to commence forming a comparison between my adversaries and myself. Were I disposed to resort to the uncertain mode of Numbers, I have not a doubt but the proportion in my favour would be fully equal to that of the Grand Jury, which if deemed advisable will be resorted to with pleasure. Or if an expression of opinion of all the Authorities in the State, from the Executive down, would avail me any thing, it can easily be obtained. Time Sir, and ordinary opportunity, is all I want to prostrate every charge of the Petitioners in the eyes of a generous community, and especially in Georgia.

I am very respectfully
 Sir, your humble servant
 J. P. Singleton
 Secy. & Treasr.

To
 The Hon. Secretary
 of the Treasury
 Washington City
 D. C.

M (93)

269

Bz. U.S. Mint
Dahlonga 8 March 1841

Sir, as you have been a Depositor at various
times of Gold Bullion in this Box of the Mint,
will you have the kindness to state whether
you have had any cause to complain of
the results of either of your said deposits,
or have you heard of any complaint by any
other Depositor which were in my power to
have prevented. And I will thank you to
state also, whether you know of any person
who has an amount of Gold Bullion, and refuses
to deposit it in this Box of the Mint, on account
of my official station in the same.
An early reply sir, to the foregoing enquiries is
respectfully solicited by yours

Very humble servant
J. S. Singleton
Sup^t to Treas^r

Mr. 94

270

March Term 1841 Lumpkin County Georgia

We the Grand Jury for said Term
having seen a set of Charges (Four in Number)
raised for the purpose of removing from
office the Superintendent of the Branch Mint
at this place. View it as an act of justice
to the said Superintendent. To say that we
believe said Charges to be unfounded. And
may gotten up for malicious or selfish-
purposes and perhaps both. Therefore present
as a grievance any such conduct in this
or any other Community.

Goodman Hughes

Walter B. Webster

G. M. Steadick

Rowland Bearden

William Stapp

Phineas G. Matthews

B. M. Smith

Amel Bearden

Elias Turner

John Hastett

Joseph M. Ashurst

David Caldwell

John Langston

C. H. Hibberts

Forman Proctor

Joseph Lutes

A. C. Marshall

Wm. Thompson

Reuben L. Anderson

Daniel E. Jones

State of Georgia I M. P. Williams
Sumpter County Clerk of the
Superior Court of said County Do
Certify that the above and foregoing is
a just and true copy of the original
and that the same is signed by
nineteen out of twenty-one of the Grand Jurors
which were sworn and served at
the March Term of the Superior Court
of said County. 1841

Given from under my hand
and private seal (there being no seal
of Court) at Dahlonega Georgia
this sixth day of March in the year
1841

M. P. Williams Clerk

M 95 Dalmeny 6th March 1841

Dr Singleton

271

Sir

In reply to your letter I have to say & I say it cheerfully & with pleasure that so far from having any cause to complain of the treatment which I have received as a depositor of gold bullion for coinage at the branch mint over which you preside I feel under obligations to you for the obliging & polite manner in which you have at all times exerted yourself to procure for me coin in exchange for deposited bullion that I might be delayed as short a time as possible & this I know is the feeling of most or all of the gentlemen who have from time to time sent bullion for coinage from the barrole mines.

I must further say we have been equally well satisfied with the result of the assays they invariably according with assays heretofore made of our gold at the mint at P. — a complaint from my neighbour none I have heard none nor do I know of any person who has withheld bullion on account of your administration. On the contrary, I know of one or two who have made deposits because of the facilities afforded us & for which I have already expressed my obligations to you.

above. You should however remember that
since the failure by the old man with his
son & his app no person has succeeded in pleas-
ing my very body & it is unreasonable in you
to expect to do so. I am in with Antimony

of respect & esteem

your Obedt Servt

John A Jones of
Paulding County

272
Clarksville Geo 6 March 1841

Doct J. J. Singleton

Dear Sir. Your favor of - inst. has been received, and which I herewith return so that you may hold the same as a copy, not having leisure to quote the questions therein asked as as to make an intelligent reply.

I have sin at various times since the Estab-
lishment of the Branch Mint at Dahlonega
deposited Gold Bullion, and have but once
had cause of complaint of the assay made of
the said Bullion, that was about twelve months
since, the assayer did not then make it of the
value that I had in my own judgment estimated
it, but I was perhaps more apt to be mistaken
than the assayer, nor do I know whether the
same officer is now attached to the Mint.

I have heard of no complaint against the
establishment by any Depositor which I knew
it to be "in your power to prevent." Indeed
I have always had the utmost confidence
in your Integrity as Superintendent of the
Establishment. I have heard complaints of

delay in the assayer department, but
whether such complaints were well founded
and if so, whether the delay was chargeable
to you I have no knowledge.

I know of no person having refused to
deposit Gold Bullion in the Mint in
consequence of your official station
therein

Very Respectfully
Yr old Serv

Geo. P. Sanford

ack of office

(97)

273

Br. W. D. Mint
Dahlongee 10 March 1841

Sir,

I have the hon. to request that you
cause your warrant to be issued in my favor
for two thousand five hundred dollars out
of the following appropriations for this branch
of the Mint for 1841. (viz)

from the sum for Salaries of Officers	\$1,500.00
" " " " payment of Laborers	720.00
" " " " Contingent expenses &c.	230.00
	<u>2,500.00</u>

If the Department could with convenience
send us Treasury Notes in sums from five
hundred dollars down, it would much oblige
the Superintendent.

I am very respectfully
Sir your humble servant
J. D. Singleton
Asst. Treas.

To
The Hon Secretary
of the Treasury
Washington City
D. C.

Super H. answer

Mr. W. J. Mint
Dahlgren 13th March 1841

Sir,

In the discharge of what I consider my duty, I have the hon. to state that on the 5th of January last I was requested by the then Hon. Secretary of the Treasury to "hold one half of the Deposits with the Br. Mint for procuring Metal for coining, so that it can be paid upon the Treasurers Drafts, should it be called for, as it probably may be, ere long". I respectfully remonstrated against this request, and endeavored to show to the Hon. Secretary its deleterious effects in checking the usefulness of this Br. of the Mint, in the event of such a withdrawal.

On the 25th of the same month (Jan.) I received the following reply from Mr. Woodbury "I shall not draw upon the Bullion account of your Br. Mint, unless it shall become necessary: I have thought best however, that you should be prepared for such a contingency". In accordance to this, I immediately prepared for the contingency, and which is yet in a state of readiness, ^{ready} and I consider equivalent to an actual withdrawal of the same so long as the reserve continues.

The object of this communication Sir, is to

Yours H. C. ...

respectfully request a revocation of what I
consider equal to a direct order from the Depart-
ment.

I presume Sir, that it is scarcely necessary
to give you a reason for making this request,
more than to say, that the appropriation by
Congress for the above stated object, was
ample, and the design admirable, out of which
the allowance was but small, (say \$20,000) barely
enough to affect the object of the law, and
the withdrawal of one half of which would
be materially to lessen the usefulness of this
Br. of the Mint, and thereby defeat in a great
degree the object of its establishment.

I have the hon. Sir,
of being very respectfully
Your humble Servant
J^o S. Dingerson
Sup. & Treasr.

14
The Hon. Secretary
of the Treasury
Washington City
D. C.

M

99

275-

Br. W.D. Mint
Dahlanega 22 April 1841

For Thomas Ewing

Sir, This day closes my official career in this Br. of the Mint. Mr. Ropignol commenced his on Monday last 19th Inst. by an examination of our Books, Receipts, and Quarterly accounts for the first quarter of this year, at my particular request, and in accordance with a suggestion contained in the instructions to me to hand over to him &c. our quarterly Return accompanies this letter, in which will be seen Mr. Ropignol's Receipt for the entire indebtedness to Depositors, as well as ~~the~~ for the \$20,000 deposited by the Gov. to facilitate the payments to Depositors for their Balance. This settlement with Mr. Ropignol also embraces our ordinary accounts, by which it will be seen that there is a balance due me by the United States of \$31.24, for which I have to request respectfully that you cause instructions to be given to Mr. Ropignol to pay the same over to me. Said balance could not be well avoided without receiving an amount due from me to the United States,

Super D. Treasurer

While the revenue of which is proposed by me,
A final close with the Treasury Department is
very desirable with me. Hence I am much in
hopes that this settlement with my successor
may be deemed satisfactory to the Department
so much so as to be considered in that light,
and that I may be apprized accordingly.

I have the honor Sir
to be yours respectfully
J. S. Gingleton
Act. Sup. & Treas.

M

100
United States Branch Mint
Dahlgren April 24th 1841

276

Sir,

I have the honor to transmit to you, the copy of part of a letter, of the Hon^{ble} Levi Woodberry, late Sec^y of the Treasury, to the late Superintendent of this mint, dated Jan^y 5 1841. "I take occasion to request, that you will hold one half of the Deposit with the Branch Mint for procuring metal for coining, so that it can be paid upon the Treasury's drafts should it be called for, as it probably may be, ere long." If this order be still in force, it will put the depositors of Gold Bullion to very serious inconvenience, by obliging them to wait from four to six weeks before they can obtain the coin for their deposits, and thereby deprive the mint of receiving much Gold on Deposit for Coining; whereas, if the order be removed, Coin could be paid to the depositors as soon as the assay of the Gold could be made, which, I believe would increase the Deposits of Gold Bullion.

To the Honourable
Thomas Ewing
Sec^y of the Treasury.

I have the honour, to be
with Much Respect
Yours Most Obedt^{ly}
Paul Reagnoe
Super^r of Treasury

M

101

277

House of Representatives
7th July 1841

Sir

I received a few days since the enclosed letter from some of the Citizens of Mexico complaining against the Superintendent of the Branch Mint in Mexico you will be kind enough to let me know whether in the alleged act of the Superintendent of the Mint he had the authority of the Department, or what are the instructions of the Department to the Superintendent in regard to exchanging gold coins for Bullion. It is important that the Citizens in the Gold regions of the State of Mexico should know what is intended to be the action of the Government in relation to the subject of the enclosed an answer is respectfully requested at the earliest convenience of the Department so that it may be transmitted to the Gold Diggers in Mexico.

I have the honor to be

very respectfully

your Obedt Servt

R. L. Gamble.

Honble

Genl of the Treasury.

M 102
Villa Rica June 20th 1841.

278

Hon. R L Gamble

Sir I carried a lot of Gold
a few days ago to the Branch mint at
Dahlonega Ga. for the purpose of exchanging
the Bullions for coin Gold, but failed
to do so. Mr Paul Rossignoll informed me
that he then had on hand; Ten thousand
Dollars in Gold coin, funds of the U. S.,
which was appropriated by Congress with
Ten thousand more which has not been
received at the mint, for the purpose of
making advances to depositors. The super-
intendant says the Ten thousand Dollars is
subject to be checked out of his hands -
consequently he is afraid to make any
advances to depositors - You will
confer a special favor on the miners
of this Gold Region by enquiring into this
matter, and have such legislation on the
subject as will authorize Mr P Rossignoll
to make advances to depositors - instanters,
Your attention to the above will oblige, the
subscribers &c.

Edm McHollander

J. Bandler

"McLarty

John McFarland

Wm McLames

Joel Coats

M 103 279
Branch Mint United States
Dahlgren 6 Novem 1841

Sir,

I have the honour to transmit
herewith my Bond. It was out of my power
to have it executed at an earlier period, having
been enabled to get my securities together only
on the 11th of October, and I received it from
Savannah this morning.

I have the honour
to remain Very Respectfully
Your Ob. Servt.
Paul Rignoe
Super^t

To/
J. N. Barker Esquire
Comptroller
Treasury Department
Washington City.

M 104 280
Branch Mint United States
Daklonega November 9th 1841

Sir,

By instructions from the Director
of the Mint, I have the honour to transmit to
you herewith, a package containing Ten half
Eagles & Two quarter Eagles, in all fifty five Dollars.
The same having been reserved for the General Assay
in February. I have the honour to request that
you will forward the package to Asst. R.
M. Patterson, Director of the Mint, at Philadelphia.

I have the honour
To remain Very Respectfully
Your O^b Serv^t
Paul Rognon
Super^t & Treas^r

To/
The Honorable Walter Forward
Secretary of the Treasury
Washington City

M 105- 281
Branch Mint United States
Dahlonga 30th November 1841

Sir,

By instructions received from
the Director of the Mint, I transmit to you a
package, containing Twelve Gold half Eagles,
for the General Assay in Philadelphia, and
I have the honor to request you to forward
the same to Direct^r R. M. Patterson, Director of
the Mint at Philadelphia.

I have the honor
to remain Very Respectfully
Your Obedt^t
Paul Roignot
Super^t & Treas^r.

To the Honorable
Walter Forward
Secretary of the Treasury
Washington City.

check
package
directed

McCoy

Sir,

I have the honour to transmit,
herewith, a package containing Ten half and
two quarter Eagles making fifty five Dollars.
which I beg you to forward to Genl R.
M. Patterson Director of the Mint Philadelphia.

I have the honour
To remain Very Respectfully
Yours O^b Serv^t
Paul Requist
Super^r & Treas^r.

To the Honorable
Walter Forward
Secretary of the Treasury
Washington City.

7106
Branch Mint United States
Philadelphia Dec 8th 1841

282

M

107
Branch Mint United States
Dakota December 18th 1841

283

Sir,

I have the honor of transmitting
to you herewith, a package containing Ten half
& two quarter Eagles, amounting to fifty five Dollars
which I request you to forward to Doct. R. M.
Patterson, Director of the Mint at Philadelphia.

I have the honor to
remain Very Respectfully
Your Obedt. Servt.
Paul Wignac
Super & Treas.

To the Honorable
Walter Forward
Secretary of the Treasury
Washington City.

M 108

284

US Branch Mint

Charlotte N.C. 9th Jan 41

Sir

By direction of J. R. M. Patterson
Director of the mint at Philadelphia, I forward
under cover to you, a box containing the assay
coin for 1840 of this Branch, to be verified
before the Board of Commissioners for that purpose,
which box you will be pleased to forward

Very respectfully

I have the honor to be

Your ob. servant

M. H. Whaler

Superintendent

Hon

Sir W. Woodbury

Secy of the Treasury